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Arielle Lessarde and others showed support for Calgary Transit and the SW BRT project while detractors protested. HELEN PIKE/ METRO

metroNEWS

GO versus NO TRANSIT

CalgaryNEXT 'not feasible'

INFRASTRUCTURE

Report reveals sports complex could cost $1.3B in tax dollars

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

The Calgary Sports and Entertainment Corporation weren't just a little off with their CalgaryNEXT pitch — they were way off base, according to numbers in a city report.

The project, which includes a hockey arena, football field and public field house, was originally pitched as an $890-million endeavour by CSEC president Ken King. But the costs have run up. Now at double, the project is estimated to cost $1.8 billion, and could cost taxpayers $1.3 billion.

A report by administration analyzing the West Village mega-project deemed it wasn't feasible in its current form or location. The document will be debated at Monday's city council meeting.

"I've always said: public money must be used for public benefit," read a prepared statement from Mayor Naheed Nenshi. "Council will have a robust discussion about this on Monday. City Administration has also identified a potential alternative for council's consideration that may accomplish the same objectives, but at a lower cost."

The soil in the proposed site is contaminated by creosote from industrial activity decades ago — which has hindered redevelopment. King originally quoted the costs between $50 million and $300 million.

Although not as costly as was expected, the creosote cleanup still presents some major difficulties, and continues to be a huge undertaking. Depending on the approach, it could cost between $85 million and $140 million, taking six to 10 years to complete. But the city admittedly points out even those timelines are out of their control.

Although the report highlighted that administration is still pursuing the "polluter pays" approach, there's no indication how long it could take to get cash from the defunct creosote plant.

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metro NEWS

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Justin Trudeau has been named most stylish politician by GQ. **Canada**

PC party wants to stop the presses

Alberta's Progressive Conservative party introduced a bill Wednesday that would regulate pill presses in a bid to curb the use of hard drugs like fentanyl and W-18.

Bill 205 would regulate the ownership, operation and possession of pill or tablet presses, establish penalties that have a significant financial effect on criminals, and create a regulatory process to outline protocols for the seizure and removal of presses.

MLA Mike Ellis, a former police officer who serves as the PC critic for justice and solicitor general, said no other province has similar legislation.

"We're the first and we're very proud of that," he said.

OxyContin was Alberta's problem drug when Ellis was a police officer in Calgary, and he said fellow officers have kept him in the loop about the trend toward fentanyl.

"Like any good investigator I did my research, and I discovered that there was one common thread when any drug bust was occurring, and the pill press was it," he said.

"So if we can (make) an impact in the distribution and manufacturing of this drug, then we're doing a good thing, we're saving lives."

Alberta College of Pharmacists president Rick Hackman said he supports the bill, which would amend the Pharmacy and Drug Act.

KEVIN MAIMANN/METRO

> There was one common thread when any drug bust was occurring, and the pill press was it.
>
> MLA Mike Ellis

Some fentanyl sold in Alberta, often passed off on the street in pills that look like OxyContin, has been found to contain an even more potent substance: the synthetic opioid W-18. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ANDRES PLANA/METRO

'100 times' more toxic

FENTANYL CRISIS

Health officials concerned after opioid W-18 seized in city

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Health officials in Alberta are on watch after police intercepted a large quantity of a legal drug in Edmonton said to be more toxic than fentanyl.

ALERT Staff Sgt. Dave Knibbs said police seized four kilograms of a mysterious powder during a fentanyl investigation in the Edmonton area in December, and on Tuesday received lab results back from Health Canada that confirmed the substance is the synthetic opioid W-18.

Knibbs said W-18 is "100 times stronger and more toxic" than fentanyl, which was linked to 272 deaths in Alberta last year.

"To our best knowledge, this is the first time that W-18 has been seized in a powder form in Alberta," Knibbs said. "This seizure is very concerning for the police. Theoretically, a four-kilogram seizure of W-18 could have produced hundreds of millions of illicit pills.

"Fentanyl has taken far too many lives across the province and W-18 represents an even more significant threat."

Some tests of street-sold fentanyl seized in Calgary over the past several months have shown the presence of W-18.

Dr. Laura Calhoun, provincial medical director of addiction and mental health for Alberta Health Services, said W-18 is a "huge concern" and there is currently no way to test for it in Alberta. She said front-line health officials have been notified that the drug is in the province.

Calhoun said naloxone — a medication that blocks the effects of opioids — is the only way to combat an overdose.

Knibbs said RCMP, the Edmonton Police Service and all other municipal law enforcement agencies in Alberta are actively engaged in education campaigns with front-line officers to make sure everyone is aware of the risk of unknown substances.

"Because synthetic opioids are so dangerous, our front-line officers need to be aware of the dangers," he said.

Knibbs was mum on whether any arrests were made or any charges were laid in the seizure, citing the ongoing investigation.

POWERFUL AND DANGEROUS

What is W-18?
It's a powerful opioid developed by chemists at the University of Alberta in 1981.

Health Canada proposed in February 2016 to have the drug listed under Schedule I of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, but it is currently still legal.

Staff Sgt. Dave Knibbs said the W-18 seized in the Edmonton area "likely" came from overseas and that the substance is "very new" to Canada.

Knibbs said he does not know what the W-18 would have been sold as had it made it to the streets, though it has been found in fentanyl tablets seized in Calgary.

The drug was not brought out during a press conference at ALERT headquarters Wednesday, as Knibbs said even airborne exposure can put people at risk.

‘That’s not it’: Muslim woman wants a dialogue

CULTURE

Shima Safwat aims to spark change using conversation

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Shima Safwa and Angela Rathwell met as a part of the Dialogue Network. Rathwell said she left with a new understanding of the niqab. CONTRIBUTED

Shima Safwat wears a niqab, and she wants you to ask her about it.

Safwat recently joined the Calgary Centre for Global Community's Social Capital Tournament, after Syrian Refugee Support Group (SRSG) co-founder Saima Jamal invited her.

There she met Dr. Arthur Clark, who introduced her to one of their projects called the Dialogue Network.

The Social Capital Tournament uses game play to strengthen the fabric of society, according to Clark.

“People are motivated by things that can make their community better and the global community better,” he said. “Dialogue is very important on a personal and global level — in this project we teach each other because we want to learn about the other’s journey and honour each other through that dialogue.”

Safwat, who has hosted One Nation events in Calgary aimed at uniting people from all walks of life, said she was happy Clark asked her to join the project.

“It was so simple and so easy. You can sit in the park or anywhere and have a friendly conversation with anybody,” she said. “People are curious to know more about me and about my niqab, so it’s a good opportunity to introduce myself to people.”

Safwat said she went to the park with her four children last Sunday and decided to start a conversation with a lady sitting there.

“She started talking to me and we chatted about our lives and at the end she told me ‘I didn’t know you were open to talk,” she said. “She told me she thought maybe I didn’t speak English or wasn’t allowed to talk.”

Safwat said because she wears a niqab, this is a common misconception — and something she is trying to dispel.

“People think Muslim women are always oppressed, they have no power and they are stuck at home just raising kids and that’s it,” she said. “To be honest, this is not true.”

Safwat said not only is she very involved in her community through volunteerism and her children, but she is also well educated (holding a degree in economics and political science), and that what people don’t understand is that wearing a niqab or a hijab is a choice.

“I don’t blame people because they don’t have information, so my job is to educate people and to show them the real Muslim woman,” she said. “I am covered because it is my choice, nobody forced me to cover, I am free to uncover or to cover.”

Angela Rathwell saw Safwat post on the SRSG Facebook page about the Dialogue Network and asked her to meet for tea and to chat. She said the experience has helped her break down her personal fears.

“I was very tired of feeling emotionally hijacked by social media telling me I needed to be afraid and I didn’t know why,” she said.

“It was a very eye-opening experience, and pretty much everything I thought I knew about the niqab was a load of hooey.”

Rathwell said she recommends the experience to anyone.

“It’s a very mindful way to go about discovering people who are new here and to gain a better understanding,” she said.

> **My job is to educate people and to show them the real Muslim woman.** Shima Safwat

UNIONS

Health Services criticized

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Alberta Health Services must change what the province’s largest union leader calls a culture of intimidation and bullying to reduce long-term disability costs.

On Wednesday, Freedom of Information documents obtained by the Alberta Liberal Party showed Alberta Health Services has doubled its spending on long-term disability since 2012.

AHS spent about an additional $19.1 million in 2015 on long-term disability for unionized public health workers, a significant spike from the approximately $13.9 million spent in 2012.

Guy Smith, president of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, said the spike is troubling, especially when the primary cause for needing time off is mental illness.

“There are far more demands on their (nurses) time,” he said. “So that’s why you’re seeing the increase in physical injury, but it also takes a mental toll as well.”

Alberta Health Services said reducing sick leave costs is a priority, adding it’s implemented two programs to reduce unscheduled short-term absences to stay at work. It said it has reduced absenteeism by 2.3 per cent — or more than 150,000 hours before it was implemented.

AHS said it values its employees by supporting their health and wellness, but Smith said management needs to change its top-down approach.

“They need to start developing a culture of respect in the workplace,” he said, “and also recognize that when workers are identifying they’re overworked and overloaded that the employer provides resources instead of backlash.”

This photo posted by Luke Magdy is one of many that helped police identify suspects. SCREENSHOT

Facebook helps nab suspects

SOCIAL MEDIA

Neighbour groups share video and pics

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

The vigilance of Auburn Bay community members has helped the Calgary Police Service (CPS) identify suspects in relation to a series of thefts in their neighbourhood.

According to CPS, the first incident occurred Dec. 8, 2015, when a man and a woman stole four truck tires from inside a fenced yard beside a residence located in the 14000 block of Deer Ridge Drive S.E.

> A lot of good stuff can come out of social media — the general public are our eyes and ears.
> Sgt. Pete Barker

The event was caught on CCTV, and the footage helped police identify suspects. It's believed the same pair stole eight tires from two homes in Auburn Bay earlier this month.

The homeowner also posted the CCTV footage to a neighbourhood community group on Facebook, prompting additional footage to surface as time went on.

Luke Magdy, who posted one of the photos, said he believes they stole his snowblower, but his security cameras were down at the time, so he posted in the group explaining what had happened.

"I posted it to the group and a bunch of people responded and said they'd seen a little red truck loaded to the hilt with snowblowers and tires leaving the community," he said.

CPS said that the neighbours' vigilance helped narrow in on suspects in the case.

"The pictures and videos showed them not only committing the offence, but driving away from it," said CPS investigator Sgt. Pete Barker.

Barker said CPS monitors social media very closely and saw the videos (one of which had more than 450,000 views) and he said they helped them identify both suspects and gave them evidence of the apparent crimes in progress.

"A lot of good stuff can come out of social media — the general public are our eyes and ears," he said.

A mother and son, Julie Straza, 65, and Stanley Straza, 37, were arrested April 14 and are both facing charges of theft under $5,000. More charges are pending.

COURT

Three found guilty of murder

A Calgary jury has found three people guilty of killing a man over a child custody dispute.

Sheena Cuthill, Tim Rempel and Will Rempel were all found guilty Wednesday of first-degree murder in Ryan Lane's death.

Lane, who was 24, was last seen in February 2012 and his remains were found in a burn barrel months later about 70 kilometres northeast of Calgary.

Court heard that Cuthill and her husband, Tim Rempel, were angry that Lane wanted visitation rights with the child he fathered with Cuthill.

During the trial, Tim Rempel testified that he met with Lane to encourage him to walk away from the custody battle and that the discussion became heated.

Rempel said he and his brother, Will, drove away in their own vehicles and that Lane was alone and alive when they left him.

The Rempel brothers were also found guilty of kidnapping and showed no emotion as the verdict was read.

Lane's friends and family were in court for the verdict and were relieved by the decision.

A first-degree murder conviction comes with an automatic life sentence with no parole for 25 years.

The three will be sentenced on Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Notley bullish on NDP

Alberta's Rachel Notley is the last NDP premier in Canada following the party's defeat by Brian Pallister's Conservatives in Manitoba's general election, but she says she doesn't view it that way.

She says she sees herself as the first of a vanguard of new NDP leaders and governments on the way.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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It looks like it will be back to the drawing board for the CalgaryNEXT proposal. CONTRIBUTED

City pokes holes in CalgaryNEXT

DEVELOPMENT

Council ready to discuss alternatives on Monday

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

From the moment Calgary Sports and Entertainment Corporation put forward its two-page proposal on CalgaryNEXT, it was met with skepticism.

Now that city administration has released its report, the proposal seems to be off the table in the city's eyes, even though council still has to discuss the next step on Monday.

"I had always said that unless we were off by a full decimal place in our back-of-napkin sketches, there was no way this was going to pencil out," said Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra.

He said the final nail in the coffin of the plan is the time it would take to clean up contamination in the West Village. The report said it could take until 2026 before the site would be ready for construction.

"I just don't think the West Village makes sense, especially with the Green Line now sweeping over 12 Avenue — the Stampede's never looked better from a connectivity perspective," said Carra. "There's oceans of space to do at least an arena or even centre between the current Saddledome and 12 Avenue."

Coun. Evan Woolley would've seen the project in his ward. He said he was open to the idea from the start, but the proposal begged many more questions than it answered.

He said he was disappointed that administration didn't take greater steps to consult with the people in the community who would've been affected by the construction and operation of CalgaryNEXT as it was proposed.

Administration did consult with the Telus Convention Centre, The Saddledome Foundation and Tourism Calgary.

"They didn't do some of the engagement council had directed them to do — and that's disappointing," said Woolley.

Coun. Ward Sutherland questioned whether the public would be well-served by the proposal as is, and the infusion of tax dollars that would be needed.

"In this perspective, it's a pretty large amount of money that would come from the tax base. It's an ideal situation for one particular group, but does it make sense for Calgarians? Those are separate questions."

He said eventually, the city will have to pay for a fieldhouse, but he said funding for the other facilities is debatable.

> **They didn't do some of the engagement council directed them to do.**
> Coun. Evan Woolley

CREOSOTE NOT GOING AWAY: WOOLLEY

Coun. Evan Woolley said he's surprised by how low the estimates for the environmental clean-up in the west village are.

The city has known for years that the site of a former lumber mill is contaminated with creosote, and will need to be cleaned up before development can happen.

He said initially, clean-up numbers as high as $300 million were being tossed around.

"Now we're looking at costs of $80 to $140 million," said Woolley.

"These are significant costs and they will take time to do. But this number — remembering the principal of "polluter pay" — is more reasonable than what I had expected at that location."

He added that the silver lining in this process is that it has shone a spotlight on the need for an environmental clean-up in the West Village.

"We've always said without the arena proposal — we're keen to move forward on redevelopment of West Village."

BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

Protesters puff outside city hall

CANNABIS

Feds say legalization could start in spring 2017

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Shyla, who declined to give her last name, enjoys a joint outside city hall on Tuesday afternoon. BRODIE THOMAS/METRO

As protests go, it was pretty laid-back. About 50 people were gathered outside Calgary City Hall Wednesday for the annual 420 rally in support of legalizing marijuana.

Participants said with word today of the federal government's plan to begin legalization in the spring of 2017, the rally was more of a celebration than a protest.

"We want to let the city know that the plant that we fought to legalize is on its way and that it's medicine and that it's pretty much more harmless than anything you could think of," said participant Travis Donald.

He said he uses cannabis to control the pain from herniated discs in his spine, and kidney damage that was caused by the opiates he initially used to manage his back pain.

Donald said legalization was a key concern for him in the federal election.

"I'm glad to see for once, a politician is doing what they said they'd do," he laughed.

Police were waiting on the fringes of the crowd. They had warned protesters they would arrest people if they saw them doing anything illegal, but before long people were sparking up and passing around joints without any hassle.

Not every protester was passing and puffing. Roxie, 51, supports people who use marijuana even though she chooses not to.

"I know so many people who use it medicinally and need it, people who use to relieve stress. It's a lot safer than alcohol ... it should be everyone's choice."

WE ASKED YOU

What are your thoughts on marijuana legalization?

I'm actually a recovering drug addict, so I think it's pretty foolish. I think there are bigger things that our province and our country should be looking at doing — not legalizing marijuana.

Julie Boyce

I think my biggest concern is that it could go the same way that tobacco did, where they start putting fillers in because there's more profit. But I think it would be good to decriminalize it.

Cassandra Bullis

If people want to get marijuana, whether it's legal or illegal, they'll get it ... From a cultural and religious point-of-view, I can't condone it. From a safety point-of-view, (legalization) might be better.

Shameer Abdool

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Public to have say in 40 km/h limit idea

COUNCIL

But speed took back seat to Step Forward pedestrian plan

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Councillors had speed on their minds as they debated the pros and cons of changing residential roads to 40 kilometres an hour during a committee meeting on Wednesday — although a read through the report would show that wasn't entirely the point.

Ultimately the fight for 40 km/hour took a back seat to the lengthy Step Forward report, as Coun. Diane Colley-Urquhart opted to amend administration recommendations to adopt the "proposed framework."

Instead, administration will now be getting public feedback on the idea before taking any drastic measures. The issue will be reported back in November 2016.

"When I look at the stakeholder engagement, which is a key component of what we do, I'm not clear on the degree to which we've had citizen consultation on residential speed reduction," said Colley-Urquhart. "I can't see where we've actually had a significant engagement process."

> **The design is driven ... by a fire truck and a garbage truck.**
> Coun. Brian Pincott

The 40 km/hour aspect was a sliver of what councillors had on the table. The report contained 50 actions, and a short-term capital and operating funding plan to the tune of an extra $15 million from 2016 to 2018.

"We're focused a lot on one action, which is lowering the speed limits," said Coun. Brian Pincott. "But that's a reaction to a road environment that's not designed for pedestrians."

Pincott highlighted that the city needs to start taking direction and focus on design methods to make roads safe for all, instead of safer for pedestrians.

"The design is driven, a lot of times, by a fire truck and a garbage truck," said Pincott.

Some councillors highlighted the need for education — two, councillors Sean Chu and Andre Chabot, saying you can't be right if you're dead right.

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Kevin Gavel has been living on the streets of Calgary for 16 years. On Wednesday, **volunteers from BeTheChangeYYC handed him gifts of a tarp, food and shaving razors after recognizing him on Stephen Avenue.** JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

HOMELESS

Group gives a hand up, not handouts

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

Armed with soaps, socks and sandwiches, Chaz Smith and Vicky Penny took to Stephen Avenue on Wednesday afternoon — just like they do every other Wednesday afternoon.

With money from their own pockets, the duo and a few friends have been bringing these gifts to Calgary's homeless population every week for six months under their campaign, BeTheChangeYYC.

"We want to inspire change in our community," said Penny. "If we go out and we do this, our hope is that someone's going to see this and think, 'Hey, I have $5, I can go downtown and give a guy a sandwich, too,' and then the movement keeps going."

As soon as they stepped out on the street this Wednesday, Penny noticed Kevin Gavel's familiar face.

Gavel has been living on the streets of Calgary for 16 years, and said he's been handed a sandwich from BeTheChangeYYC's volunteers many times.

"It makes you feel like you're somebody," Gavel said simply, as he held his new tarp, shaving razors and sandwich in his arms.

Smith recalls how it began, saying he once saw a homeless man sleeping at a train station. People in business suits walked by, "and not one person" stopped to ask if he was OK.

"It makes you wonder: why do we have blinders on?" he said. "Why are we not acknowledging or seeing people? And then, when we talk to (people experiencing homelessness), they also express that, and they'll say people do ignore them. They just want to be acknowledged."

By offering pamphlets for city services, street survival guides or something as simple as an ear to listen, the motto of BeTheChangeYYC is to "give a hand-up, not a hand-out."

"Anybody can hand someone a sandwich on the side of the street and have that be the end of it," said Penny.

"We want to have more follow-through, we want to work with them to get them out of that situation ... rather than just handing them something and walking away."

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Erin Millar said the local-focused festival will help artists who get lost in the glitz of the bigger Calgary Comic Expo gain more exposure from the comic book community. AARON CHATHA/METRO

Comic creators ink indie festival

ENTERTAINMENT

Panel One will showcase the city's best writers, artists

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Calgary comic creators are drawing up their own stage.

Panel One — a collaboration of Calgary comic creators, including writers and artists — just completed a Kickstarter campaign to fund the Panel One festival: a festival focused exclusively on comics created by Calgarians.

Co-organizer Erin Millar said the city has a lively — and inspirational — creator scene, and although most of them do showcase their works at the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo, most of the time, entertainment takes the spotlight.

"People don't necessarily go there for the comics," she said, pointing out the big movie stars and merchandising at the show. "We've kind of gotten lost in this pop culture shuffle."

So the group is sidestepping the standard comic shows and creating a spotlight all their own.

The first ever Panel One Comic Creator Festival will take place in June, and feature only original works by Calgary artists.

That doesn't mean that superheroes are out — some of Calgary's most talented have worked for the likes of Marvel and DC, but will only be showcasing the comics they've worked on.

But the show also highlights local comic creators and their unique creations, like Nick Johnson, who works on Wolf Hands. It's a comic about a cell-phone plan salesman to who gets infected with the Werewolf curse — but only in his hands.

The festival will also feature workshops, like how to create your own mini comics and zines

> **We have other jobs in some cases but there's a love of the medium there.**
> Erin Millar

— or a special comic creator session for kids.

"These people, they love what they're doing," said Millar. "We have other jobs in some cases — but there's a love of the medium there. I would say Calgary creators are inspirational.

When we started, we knew there were lots (of creators) — but we didn't know that there would be this many. There's still Calgary creators joining."

Millar said they would have put on the festival regardless of whether the Kickstarter was successful or not, but it felt great to see Calgarians throw their support behind the project.

It takes place on June 4 at the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association, starting at noon.

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PROVINCIAL BUDGET

Budget advertising costs spark outrage

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

At least it's nearly half a million less than what the Tories spent, says the NDP government.

On Wednesday, the penny-pinching NDP said it'll spend $747,000 to advertise its 2016 budget, $490,000 less than the roughly $1.2 million the Progressive Conservative government spent advertising its 2014 budget.

Leah Holoiday, press secretary for Finance Minister Joe Ceci, said the money is spent so taxpayers have accurate information.

"Budget advertising highlights key priorities for Albertans, such as stable funding for public services like health care and education, and government support for job creation, small business and economic diversification," Holoiday said.

But Alberta Party Leader Greg Clark said the advertisements are solely used for political spin.

"It's absolutely wrong," Clark said. "There are lots of ways — the media, the government's website — for them to get their message out."

The government spent $736,400 on budget 2015 advertising, $10,550 less than what it'll spend this year.

Clark said the money could be better used.

"$750,000 pays for eight teachers," he said. "They're living in a fantasy world if they think it's not much money. They need to send the right message during these tough economic times, and this just sends the wrong message."

Media costs for the budget 2016 campaign are $577,000 and the creative production costs are $170,000. Holoiday said advertising will appear on television and online.

For or against, people were happy to beat the drum in demonstrations about the SW BRT project. HELEN PIKE/METRO

A fractured opposition

TRANSIT

Pair of transit groups at odds during SW BRT demonstration

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

It was a tale of two transit groups.

On Wednesday, as councillors sat listening to the Transportation and Transit committee, two crowds, both for transit, gathered in the Municipal Building Plaza with some very opposing views.

In the right corner we had our run-of-the-mill Ready to Engage protesters, wearing highlighter coloured shirts, screen printed with various BRT-related slogans. And to the left, way down on the sidewalk, just outside the plaza, a group of about a dozen holding placards reading I (heart) transit.

While one group is advocating for the need for a Bus Rapid Transit system in the city's southwest neighbourhoods, the other contended it wasn't needed.

"They're not listening to us, they're not taking our concerns into consideration whatsoever, and what's really laughable is that the slightest bit of opposition is deemed as abuse, or offensive," said Ready to Engage protest participant Gail Thorne.

"We're at the end of the city, now they're proposing to have all these buses running through night and day. We don't need it. The access for bus transportation is fairly good as it is right now."

Another protester said he rode his bike to the demonstration, he's aware of public transit and has lived in southwest Calgary his whole life.

"All we're asking is for them to rethink, we're not a wild bunch of crazies," said Paul Finkleman, who is the transportation liaison for the Braeside community.

"On 14 Street we could use carpool lanes, high occupancy vehicle lanes, there's all kinds of alternatives that we can use, and they're intelligent alternates."

> **We need good infrastructure, we're so far behind all the other cities in Canada.**
> Arielle Lessarde

Arielle Lessarde was walking toward the crowd to try and have discussions with some of the Ready to Engage protesters. She came to show her support for transit. Instead she was left with a bad taste in her mouth.

"I find the ignorance very frustrating; disseminating bad information is all around just not a good indication of democracy," Lessarde said.

Lessarde lives in Tuxedo Park and uses transit every day. She said everyone has a right to have their voices and objections heard, but noted there's more at stake.

"We need good infrastructure, we're so far behind all the other cities in Canada," she said.

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Third murder charge laid

DEREK SARETZKY

Man accused in killing of dad, girl blamed in senior's death

The man charged with the murder of a father and his little daughter in the Crowsnest Pass is now facing another first-degree murder charge.

Derek Saretzky, 23, who faces murder charges in the deaths of Terry Blanchette and two-year-old Hailey Dunbar-Blanchette, has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of 69-year-old Hanna Meketch, according to RCMP.

Meketech's body was discovered in her Coleman, Alta. home on the evening of Sept. 9, 2015. That same day, RCMP launched a homicide investigation into the circumstances surrounding her death.

An autopsy conducted Sept. 11, 2015 by Calgary's office of the chief medical examiner determined Meketech's death was the result of a homicide.

According to RCMP, the investigation was intensive and utilized the skills and expertise of several specialized sections including the RCMP's Major Crimes Unit–South and Forensic Identification Section, as well as resources from the Crowsnest Pass RCMP detachment.

The Lethbridge Crown Prosecutor's Office is managing the criminal proceedings.

Saretzky's next court appearance has yet to be determined.

Blanchette, 27, was found dead in his Blairmore home on Sept. 14, 2015, and an Amber Alert was issued for Hailey, whose remains were discovered in a rural area the next day.

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Police are looking for this individual over a smash-and-grab at Cabela's northeast location. COURTESY CPS

THEFT

Dozen guns stolen in Cabela's break-in

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Calgary police are on the hunt for a thief who swiped a dozen guns in a smash-and-grab at a northeast Calgary sporting-goods store.

Staff Sgt. Quinn Jacques said police were called to the Cabela's location at 851 64th Ave. N.E. around 6:30 a.m. Tuesday after reports of a break-and-enter at the store.

"Police arrived to find the front doors on the north side of the building had been smashed and ultimately that weapons were taken," he said.

The break-in happened around 4:40 a.m., police said, but it wasn't noticed until workers arrived two hours later.

Jacques said firearm theft has been on the rise in Calgary — and it's very disturbing for both police and the public.

4
Number of minutes the theft took, according to police

"Often we're finding these guns later on in other investigations, during search warrants — and at the scene of violent crimes," he said. "It's very concerning because these guns were targeted specifically to be used in illicit offences."

Police said once the thief gained entrance, he went straight to four glass display cases and took nine handguns and three restricted rifles worth $10,000. The thief was in and out of the store in less than four minutes, police said.

According to Jacques, a manager was in the store at the time catching up on work. He said the alarm was disabled because the manager was there and he didn't hear anything because he was on the opposite side of the large building.

The thief was wearing a black balaclava, blue jeans, black running shoes and a grey hoodie with blue long sleeves and a logo reading GSRD.

> **Often we're finding these guns later on ... at the scene of violent crimes.** Staff Sgt. Quinn Jacques

IN BRIEF

Man charged with assaulting baby

RCMP in Sylvan Lake have charged a 47-year-old man with aggravated assault after a 10-month-old baby was taken to hospital.

Police launched their investigation on March 12 after the child was taken to hospital with unexplained injuries.

The baby has since been released from the hospital. To protect the identity of the victim, no names will be released.

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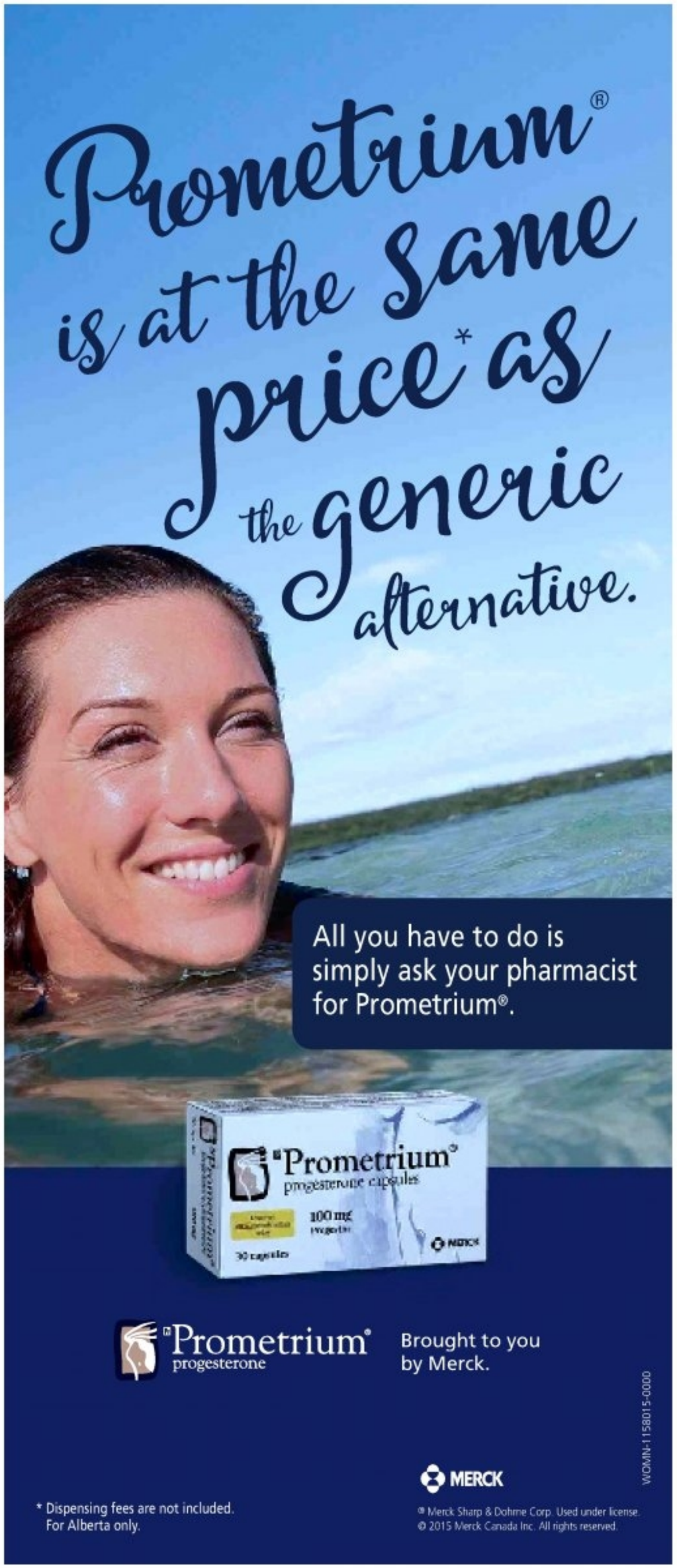

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Theresa Van Wijk was told she'll be waiting 10 months for an MRI, far exceeding the four to six month wait time the majority of the population sees. JEREMY SIMES / FOR METRO

'Every day I feel like I get worse'

HEALTH

Theresa Van Wijk has to wait 10 months for MRI test

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Theresa Van Wijk's life was forever changed when an ostrich kicked her in the head about 10 years ago.

"I've never felt the same since then," she said. "Every day I feel like I get worse."

Van Wijk is among the growing number of Albertans waiting several months for multiple sclerosis (MS) testing.

But Van Wijk's case is much different — for two years, she's been shuffled from one appointment to the next, but won't be getting an MRI test for MS until July — a 10-month wait — far exceeding the four to six month wait time 90 per cent of the population sees.

"I can't even count the number of appointments over the last two years," she said. "I feel like I'm backed in a corner. We live in a country where I feel like a foreigner. It's just one of those things where people who need help immediately wait a long time."

AHS has said demand for MRI scans has grown in line with Alberta's population growth, adding normal wait times have remained relatively stable.

> **We live in a country where I feel like a foreigner.**
> Theresa Van Wijk

Wijk, who's considered low income, suffers from numerous disabilities and mental health, causing her doctors to believe she may have MS because her health continues to deteriorate. But she must wait longer than average.

She said she doesn't want her pain to escalate before it becomes too late.

"I don't want to be that person," she said. "Aren't we all entitled to have proper care?"

And though she was approved for Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) more than a decade ago, her recent application has been denied, leaving her without much for therapy and to cover medical equipment, like safety rails, toilet seat adjustments and a cane.

The document notes the decision may change if tests come back positive but, for Wijk, that just means she will be without therapy to control her pain.

She said she hopes her story sheds light on an issue that's affecting countless Albertans.

"I want to let others know that they might not be alone," she said.

"The system needs to be changed. I don't know what that looks like, but people need services right away."

FATAL ROLLOVER

Alcohol a factor in crash: RCMP

RCMP believe alcohol was a factor in a fatal rollover Wednesday morning on Highway 1, killing two adults and leaving five others injured.

At 9 a.m. on Wednesday, five people were ejected from the van when it crashed on the eastbound lanes, next to the weigh scales west of Hermitage Road, near Calgary, according to EMS.

Of the ejected passengers, two — one man and one woman, believed to be in their 30s — were declared dead on scene, according to RCMP.

The three other ejected passengers — two men and one woman of unknown age — were driven to the Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary.

The driver and another passenger were trapped inside the vehicle and, upon being extricated, the driver was flown via STARS air ambulance to hospital in life-threatening condition. The other passenger was also in life-threatening condition and was driven to the Foothills.

Highway 1 was closed. RCMP said it's still determining what caused the crash.

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FASHION

GQ names Trudeau most stylish politician

He's sexy, he's suave and he's prime minister — but is Justin Trudeau the most stylish politician in the world?

GQ seems to think so. The men's magazine editorial board named Trudeau "the most stylish politician alive right now."

"Justin Trudeau's meteoric rise from political young gun to Internet superhero might have something to do with the Canadian's Obama-like levels of chill," the publication wrote.

To be fair, Trudeau doesn't have much in the way of competition. U.S. President Barack Obama's dad jeans, U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron's polo shirts, and Russia's Vladimir Putin's penchant for going shirtless leave much to be desired sartorially. But there is an undeniable je ne sais quoi about Trudeau's sense of style, says Jeff Rustia, founder of Toronto Men's Fashion Week.

"It all goes hand in hand. The watch, the socks, the gear, the cars," he said.

Rustia says Trudeau has become the ambassador for Canadian men's fashion, embracing modern trends like slim-fitting suits, bold colours and athletic wear.

From his striped socks to his tan shoes, Trudeau has shown that he's not afraid of stepping out of the navy-black-charcoal palette typical of politicos.

But it's more than just what he wears, says Michael Nguyen, general manager of Garrison Bespoke, a Toronto-based custom tailor. It's how he wears it.

Having grown up in the spotlight, Trudeau has an easy confidence that makes wearing a suit seem as comfortable as a jogging suit.

"You can't buy (that) with money," Nguyen said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

DNA points to accused as mother of dead babies found in storage locker

DNA evidence suggests a woman accused of hiding the remains of infants in a storage locker she was renting could be their mother. Andrea Giesbrecht, who is 42, was charged with concealment in October 2014 after employees at a Winnipeg U-Haul facility made the discovery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homolka must be given chance to be re-enter society: Advocates

Karla Homolka did her time and deserves a chance to start over, say advocates. The fact that Homolka had been living for some time in small-town Quebec suggests the she has reintegrated into society, says Kim Pate, executive director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some scenes of 4-20, the annual day of celebration for cannabis culture lovers, across the country. METRO & THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stoner culture could fizzle after legal weed

MARIJUANA

Legalization hangs like a cloud over 4/20 celebrations

Stoner subculture will likely take a hit with the incoming legalization of marijuana in Canada because as the cause vanishes, so will celebration of the drug, say experts.

The declaration comes as the federal government announced a spring 2017 deadline for introducing new marijuana laws and while thousands of people gathered across Canada for the annual April 20 "Weed Day" protest, also known as 4/20.

Protesting against cannabis prohibition has become a social movement with its own ideology and symbols, but that will likely change with the repeal of criminalization, said Benedikt Fischer, a senior scientist with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

"Once marijuana becomes legalized, normalized, mainstream, the cause disappears," said Fischer. "I suspect these things will kind of fizzle away."

> Once marijuana becomes legalized, the cause disappears
> Benedikt Fischer

Lynne Belle-Isle, co-founder of the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, agreed that with legalization the appeal of smoking up in rebellion could disappear. She said society could benefit as messaging is developed around using the drug more safely.

"Like alcohol, if you see your parents having a glass of wine with dinner, it's no big deal. You learn responsible use if that's what you're exposed to," she said.

"Social norms get created when you're able to do it openly, that doesn't happen when people have to hide."

Earlier in the day, Health Minister Jane Philpott told a special United Nations session on drugs that the Liberal government is convinced marijuana legalization is the best way to protect youth and enhance public safety. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT

Mike Duffy trial being called 'a case for the history books'

Did Sen. Mike Duffy commit a crime or didn't he?

That's the question Ontario Court Justice Charles Vaillancourt will seek to answer Thursday when he passes judgment on the 31 counts of fraud, breach of trust and bribery Duffy has faced since July 2014.

But the much broader implications of the saga of the senator from Prince Edward Island are perhaps best summed up in Duffy's own words to the Senate in 2013 when he delivered a scathing rebuttal of the allegations swirling around him.

"This," Duffy thundered, "is a case for the history books."

It all began in 2012, when the auditor general issued a report that recommended taking steps to ensure members of the upper chamber were submitting enough proof their expense claims were for legitimate parliamentary business.

Questions about Duffy's own claims — including whether he was a legitimate resident of P.E.I., the province he'd been appointed in 2008 to represent — began later that year. It was the first in a long chain of events that would, among other things, eventually force the departure of Nigel Wright, then the prime minister's chief of staff.

The bribery charge Duffy faces is the result of Wright's decision to personally pay the $90,000 in living expenses Duffy claimed by declaring his long-time home in an Ottawa suburb was actually a secondary residence.

The remaining 30 fraud and breach of trust charges relate to Senate money the Crown alleged Duffy either received for trips that had nothing to do with Senate work or that he funnelled through a friend's company to cover costs the Senate wouldn't pay for.

Duffy has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

The trial exposed the inner workings of a secretive Prime Minister's Office and the Conservative party machine, shaped the early narrative of last year's fateful election campaign and even led to at least one high profile Conservative publicly turning his back on the party.

If his sentence is anything other than a complete discharge — the most serious charge Duffy faces carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in jail — he'd be suspended until his appeals conclude. THE CANADIAN PRESS

An Ontario Court justice will announce his decision in the Mike Duffy trial on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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#215720	2015 BUICK VERANO	MSRP $25,590	CASH PRICE $20,585
#215762	2015 CHEVROLET IMPALA 2LT	MSRP $39,360	CASH PRICE $32,919
#2151007	2015 CHEVROLET CAMARO – 1LT CONVERTIBLE	MSRP $41,305	CASH PRICE $33,095
#215824	2015 CHEVROLET CAMARO – 2LT CONVERTIBLE	MSRP $48,025	CASH PRICE $39,175
#215305	2015 BUICK ENCORE– AWD PREMIUM	MSRP $37,840	CASH PRICE $32,356

#2151074	2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO– 2LT DOUBLE CAB Z71	MSRP $50,760	CASH PRICE $38,995
#2151213	2015 CHEVROLET SILVERADO– 2LT CREW CAB Z71	MSRP $53,890	CASH PRICE $42,645
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#2151181	2015 GMC SIERRA DENALI 2500– CREW CAB Z71	MSRP $88,015	CAS**SOLD**395
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1 Queen Elizabeth II with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren in the Green Drawing room at Windsor Castle in Windsor. **2** The U.K.'s Prince Charles, Queen Elizabeth II, the young Prince George, and Prince William, smiling during a photo shoot for the Royal Mail in 2015 in Buckingham Palace. **A stamp sheet, made from the photograph, was released to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. 3 The Queen poses on the steps of the east terrace** with four of her dogs in the garden of Windsor Castle. HANDOUT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The Queen through the years

ROYAL FAMILY

As Elizabeth II turns 90, here is a look at highs, lows of her reign

Queen Elizabeth II marks her 90th birthday on Thursday as Britons and many throughout the world celebrate her long and dignified reign. She will celebrate again in June with national events to mark her official birthday.

Here are answers to some questions about the queen's extraordinary life and times:

WHEN DID SHE BECOME QUEEN?

Elizabeth's life was changed forever in 1936 when her uncle, King Edward VIII, abdicated so he could marry his divorced lover Wallis Simpson. This made her father the king and Elizabeth heir to the throne. King George VI's health failed, however, and he was too ill for a planned tour of the Commonwealth in 1952, so he sent Elizabeth and her husband, Prince Philip, in his place.

They were staying in a remote part of Kenya on Feb. 6, 1952, when she was told that the king had died. She automatically became queen upon her father's death, although the official coronation did not take place for more than a year.

HOW DID ELIZABETH WEATHER WORLD WAR II?

Elizabeth was a young princess during World War II, and her father King George VI was concerned for her safety as London came under the repeated German bombing raids known as The Blitz. She and her sister Princess Margaret were moved to Windsor Castle, 40 kilometres west of London for security reasons. She later persuaded her parents to let her serve in the Auxiliary Transport Service, where she learned how to drive and repair ambulances and trucks as part of the war effort. She was assigned number 230873 while in the service.

HAS THE QUEEN EVER COMPLAINED IN PUBLIC?

No, that's just not done. The closest Elizabeth has come to exhibiting human frailty to her subjects was in 1992, when she made a rare admission that her life, so picture perfect on the outside, was marred by the marital woes of three of her four children. She didn't complain in English, however, looking to Latin to proclaim it had been something of an "annus horribilis" — a horrible year that included a disastrous fire at her beloved Windsor Castle.

WHAT WAS THE LOW POINT OF HER MONARCHY?

This would undoubtedly be the stormy days that followed Princess Diana's sudden death in a car crash in August 1997. The princess was tremendously popular, and many held the royal family responsible for her unpleasant divorce from Prince Charles. The queen was castigated in the press for not returning to London immediately after Diana's death and for not flying the royal standard atop the palace at half-staff as a sign of respect.

DOES THE QUEEN PLAN TO RETIRE?

The strong-willed queen has given no indication she plans to leave the throne, and has described her unique position as a "job for life." Her own mother lived to be 101, and was generally in fine fettle in her final years. Still, it is possible Elizabeth would step down if she developed severe problems that made it impossible for her to carry out her role.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. ELECTION

Clinton close to nomination, Trump strengthens hand

Hillary Clinton, the nearly unstoppable Democrat, and Republican front-runner Donald Trump accelerated Wednesday toward upcoming primaries on an increasingly direct path to presidential nominations after trouncing party challengers in New York.

Clinton, now 81 per cent of the way toward clinching the Democratic nomination that eluded her eight years ago, can lose every remaining contest and still prevail. Her sweeping victory in the New York primary called into question the durability of Bernie Sanders' rival campaign and left him with severely limited options for overtaking her.

Hillary Clinton is now 81 per cent of the way towards clinching the Democratic nomination. Donald Trump, however, is still not in the clear for the Republican nomination. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

While Trump strengthened his hand, he is still not in the clear.

Trump is focused heavily on clinching the Republican nomination through voters' balloting in state primaries, thus avoiding a contested national convention in Cleveland in July. The businessman's win in his home state keeps him on a path to securing the 1,237 delegates he needs, though he'll have to perform well in the round of primaries in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware on Tuesday and in California's huge contest on June 7.

His chief rival, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, has no mathematical path to getting the nomination through primary voting. But he sees a window to snatch the nomination from Trump at the convention, and his campaign is working feverishly to line up delegates who would support him if Trump fails to prevail on a first ballot.

The side-by-side Republican efforts at this late stage — with Trump amassing primary victories while Cruz digs for the support of delegates who could settle the nomination — are unprecedented in recent presidential campaigns and add to the deeply uncertain nature of the race.

Clinton's win in New York, a state she represented in the Senate for eight years, halted Sanders' recent string of victories and put her in a stronger position heading into the next contests. She could lose them all and still win the nomination — if she did well enough to win some delegates. Sen. Sanders' advisers offered no signs of giving up before the Democrats' Philadelphia convention.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEDITERRANEAN

Hundreds feared dead in shipwreck

Up to 500 people are feared dead after a shipwreck in the Mediterranean Sea last week, the UN refugee agency said Wednesday, citing the accounts of survivors.

The disaster happened in waters between Italy and Libya, based on accounts from 41 survivors who were rescued on April 16 by a merchant ship, UNHCR said. The agency said that if confirmed, it would be one of the deadliest tragedies on the Mediterranean in the last year.

The survivors said they had been among 100 to 200 people who left a town near Tobruk, Libya, on a smugglers' boat last week. The agency said Wednesday that "after sailing for several hours, the smugglers in charge of the boat attempted to transfer the passengers to a larger ship carrying hundreds of people in terribly overcrowded conditions."

"At one point during the transfer, the larger boat capsized and sank," UNHCR said in a statement, saying that its staff had visited the survivors at a local stadium in Kalamata, Greece, where they have been housed by authorities while they undergo "police procedures."

Barbara Molinario, a Rome-based spokeswoman for UNHCR, said details remained unclear.

The statements offered the most official comment yet following repeated news reports about the incident in recent days.

Somalia's president, prime minister and parliamentary speaker on Monday issued a joint statement over an unconfirmed report about the incident. Reports of the drownings circulated among families and on social media, but they hadn't been confirmed by coast guard authorities.

More than 1 million migrants and refugees crossed the Mediterranean last year— mostly refugees from war in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria fleeing to Greece, and the European Union, via Turkey. However, the longer Libya-Italy route has traditionally seen more deaths. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU IN CRISIS

Facing internal divisions, the EU has struggled to cope with the influx, and UNHCR on Wednesday reiterated its longstanding call for more "regular pathways" to Europe, such as with resettlement and humanitarian admission, family reunification, private sponsorship and student and work visas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Car industry drives into trouble

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. is not the first major automaker to run afoul of regulators. In fact, its admission that employees had intentionally falsified fuel mileage data for several vehicle models adds its name to a growing list of auto industry names whose brand has been tarnished.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp. admitted Wednesday that its employees had intentionally falsified fuel mileage data. ISTOCK

TAKATA CORP.

The issue: Airbags made by the Japanese parts supplier for Honda and 13 other global automakers are at risk of exploding when deployed, sending bits of metal shrapnel into drivers and passengers.

Nine fatalities and more than 100 injuries have been linked to the faulty airbags. That's out of 1.2 million airbag deployments over the same period. Affected vehicles are from model years 2002 to 2015.

The fallout: The auto industry's biggest-ever recall has spread to at least 25 million vehicles, including 1.2 million in Canada. For most Canadians, replacement parts won't be available until this fall. Takata said it's still investigating the cause of the malfunction.

VOLKSWAGEN GROUP

The issue: The German automaker admitted in September 2015 that it had deliberately cheated emissions tests by programming pollution controls to turn on only under test conditions.

Under normal driving conditions, the vehicles were emitting 10 to 40 times the legal pollution limits, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimated.

The fallout: The device was installed on 11 million cars worldwide, including some Audis and Porsches, for the model years 2009 to 2016. The company is working on a fix. Meanwhile, no additional models can be sold.

GENERAL MOTORS

The issue: A faulty ignition switch in its small cars spontaneously shut off, cutting power to the steering wheel and airbags. The scandal was compounded because it took the company nearly a decade to disclose the problem.

The fallout: In 2014, GM recalled 2.6 million vehicles because of faulty ignition switches that were implicated in 124 deaths and 275 injuries, including some in Canada.

TOYOTA

The issue: Faulty gas pedals would suddenly accelerate out of control. The effect of the recall was immense to an auto company that had been noted for its high-quality products.

The fallout: The firm initially blamed floor mats. But in 2011, after 12 deaths were linked to the problem, Toyota recalled 10 million cars and redesigned the accelerator.

HYUNDAI/KIA

The issue: The automakers were accused by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2012 of overstating their fuel efficiency claims.

The fallout: Hyundai and Kia voluntarily lowered their fuel efficiency claims, prompting lawsuits from affected customers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RETAIL

Ikea reissues safety warning after deaths of children

Colin McNeil
Metro | Toronto

Ikea is again reminding customers of the importance of wall anchoring their assemble-it-yourself furniture after a U.S. toddler's death.

The reissued safety warning comes after a 'Malm' dresser toppled over and killed 22-month-old Minnesota boy. The boy, who managed to tip the chest over onto himself, was found under the dresser after his mother went to check on him during a nap.

Ikea says the chest was not properly anchored to the wall.

The Swedish furniture giant issued the safety warning for the first time last summer, after two young children died in separate incidents when Malm dressers fell on them.

Lawyers for the family of one of the children, a two-year-old boy from Pennsylvania, have launched a website calling for Ikea to issue a recall and are hoping to gather more stories from parents.

Ikea is offering replacement anchoring kits to any customers who don't have their original.

metro VIEWS

Your essential daily news

Thursday, April 21, 2016

CHANTAL HÉBERT ON CHANGING VOTER DEMOGRAPHICS

The Liberals were the main beneficiaries of a higher level of youth engagement in the electoral process last fall but that does not mean they can take that support for granted.

But for young millennial voters Justin Trudeau might not have won a majority victory last fall.

As an Abacus Data study confirmed this week, the younger cohort of the electorate tilted the balance in favour of the Liberals. By turning out in greater numbers and coalescing behind Trudeau, voters aged 18-25 almost certainly made a difference between a minority and a majority.

Early indications suggest the Liberals were the preferred choice of a plurality of younger voters (45 per cent) beating the NDP (25 per cent) and the Conservatives (20 per cent). In comparison to 2011, turnout among that age group went up 12 percentage points.

Before dismissing the growth of the youth vote and its impact on the election outcome as a one off — essentially due to Trudeau's status as a political rock star — it might be prudent to consider that the reverse could turn out to be true.

In politics, empowerment and engagement tend to come as a pair. The sense that one's vote can make a difference is one of the main incentives to continue exercising one's franchise. On that score, the experience was positive for many of those who voted for the first time in 2015.

In the big picture, no federal party can afford to ignore the changing demographics of the electorate.

Trudeau's edge with young voters could be blunted by leadership changes of other parties.

As the Abacus report points out, by the next election all millennials (born approximately between 1980 and 2000) will have a vote. Their generation will make up the electorate's largest cohort.

The Liberals were the main beneficiaries of a higher level of youth engagement in the electoral process last fall but that does not mean they can take that support for granted.

Come 2019, Trudeau's edge with young voters could be blunted by the upcoming leadership changes at the helm of the other parties. Over the course of his first mandate, Trudeau also stands to lose some of the patina that allowed him to cast himself as the greatest agent of change last fall. It is often easier to like an underdog than an incumbent.

Many New Democrats came out of the 2015 campaign feeling they had been outflanked on the front of generational change. That widespread sense contributed to Thomas Mulcair's demise at the hands of party members earlier this month.

But before the NDP concludes that a younger leader could act as a magic bullet for what ails it, it might consider that under Jack Layton, in 2011, the NDP was the preferred choice of the younger cohort. Mulcair's failure to keep that connection is alive had more to do with the larger failure of the NDP campaign to connect with the electorate at large than with the age of the leader.

More so than any of its predecessors, the millennial generation was raised in a culturally diverse Canada. That theme happens to be a constant in Trudeau's political discourse and it is reflected in his caucus. Looking at the delegates at the NDP convention in Edmonton, one had to look hard for evidence of the country's cultural diversity.

Even before the last election polls showed that if younger voters were left to decide who should run Canada, the Conservatives would come dead last — behind the Green Party. Under Stephen Harper the party worked hard at hanging on to that last place.

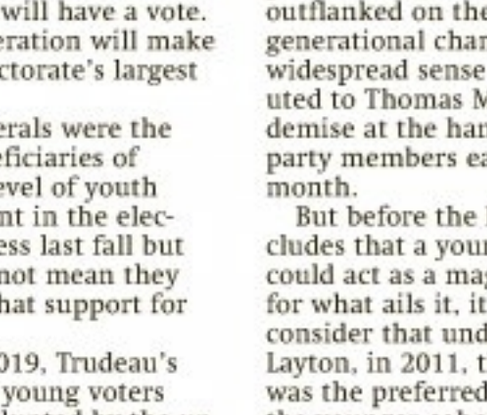
The dismissive Conservative discourse on climate change; the reluctant acceptance of marriage rights for same-sex couples; the over-the-top fear campaign over the legalization of marijuana all seemed designed to drive millennials away. The party's reductive depiction of Trudeau's leadership might as well have been calculated to come across as a generational putdown.

Like their elders, younger Canadians believe bread-and-butter issues like jobs should sit at the top of the to-do list of the federal government. But also like a majority of their elders, they crave aspirational politics and believe in the virtues of government activism.

Those are generational traits that a decade of Conservative counter-spin probably exacerbated rather than diminished. On that basis, Trudeau should share the credit for the higher youth engagement that had such defining impact on the last election with Harper.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

THE MICROTREND: Men faking orgasms



Remember when Seinfeld's Kramer admitted to being an orgasm faker? Ha! Where do they come up with this stuff, right? Well ... Researchers at Université du Québec à Montréal recently asked 230 men aged 18-29 whether they had ever faked an orgasm. On average, the respondents reported having faked it in 25 per cent of encounters. Reasons given: Because they were drunk, because they wanted to impress partners, because, as the K-man himself once put it, "It's enough already and I just want to get some sleep." (Sounds like what women might say.) And to what, pray tell, do the researchers ascribe this phenomenon? The patriarchy, of all things. In brief: Men expect themselves to have orgasms at will, and, by dint of their "prowess," to be able to induce them. Hence a vicious cycle of gender-role-reinforcing subterfuge we weren't even fully aware of. SOURCE: COSMOPOLITAN

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

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See you soon! Xoxo the TMWETLTSIFNGLW team!

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A6060	2010 MAZDA 3 5-SPEED	114,000	$7,950	$92
F-682B	2006 NISSAN PATHFINDER	176,500	$7,990	$122
F-259A	2008 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4WD	171,500	$7,990	$95
B10261	2010 TOYOTA MATRIX AUTO	128,000	$7,999	$95
V10328	2008 SUZUKI SXT TOURING	118,500	$7,999	$121
B10364	2010 NISSAN VERSA AUTO	106,550	$7,999	$78
F-1263A	2005 F150 XLT CREW 4X4	159,850	$7,999	$122
A5984	2010 DODGE AVENGER	84,000	$8,800	$101
A6057	2009 DODGE CARAVAN	169,000	$8,800	$101
FK-1100A	2012 FORD FOCUS AUTO	123,293	$8,999	$71
16T321A	2008 HYUNDAI ENTOURAGE	125,000	$8,999	$133
A6019	2008 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4WD	135,500	$8,999	$133
F-1852A	2011 FORD TAURUS SEL AWD	181,350	$8,999	$105
F-2417A	2014 FORD FIESTA SE H/B	99,500	$9,499	$67
B10294	2011 CHRYSLER 200 TOURING	100,300	$9,499	$92
A6035	2011 NISSAN SENTRA AUTO	110,000	$9,500	$90
A5711	2010 VW JETTA TDI	117,500	$9,800	$112
A5810	2011 FORD FUSION AWD	147,700	$9,800	$93
A6082	2010 TOYOTA COROLLA SPORT	105,000	$9,800	$112

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A5955	2011 VW JETTA HIGHLINE	103,000	$10,500	$99
B5949	2012 MITSUBISHI LANCER	125,000	$10,990	$91
B10401	2012 FORD FOCUS SE	87,350	$10,999	$90
P10358	2014 CHEVY CRUZE LT	83,900	$11,499	$83
CF0894A	2012 HONDA CIVIC EX	80,615	$11,539	$96
B10299	2012 CHEVY CRUZE ECO	56,600	$11,999	$99
16150	2014 FORD FOCUS SE	47,087	$12,490	$88
P10334	2014 FORD FOCUS SE	66,500	$12,799	$93
A6043	2010 RAM 1500 SLT 4X4	179,000	$12,800	$120
G-923A	2011 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4WD	122,301	$12,988	$103
16C031A	2011 CHRYSLER 200 LX	38,000	$12,990	$107
16117A	2014 FORD FIESTA SE H/B	48,000	$12,990	$92
A5812	2010 CHEVY EQUINOX AWD	109,000	$13,800	$156
L099	2015 DODGE DART M/T	25	$13,990	$99
F-810A	2014 FORD FOCUS	69,605	$13,990	$99
B5939A	2013 DODGE AVENGER SXT	59,000	$13,998	$99
B82539	2014 MAZDA 5 GS	39,425	$14,477	$101
B6479	2012 HONDA CIVIC LX AUTO	78,961	$14,539	$115
16158	2014 FORD FOCUS SE	22,960	$14,990	$105
P10320	2014 TOYOTA COROLLA LE	41,500	$14,999	$108

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E6425	2014 HYUNDAI SONATA GL	59,430	$15,349	$111
P10277	2015 CHRYSLER 200 LX	15,400	$15,499	$110
B10330	2013 HONDA CIVIC EX	39,500	$15,499	$117
P10357	2013 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SPORT	47,918	$15,499	$111
CF0135A	2013 HONDA CIVIC EX AUTO	52,753	$15,539	$112
A6037	2011 HYUNDAI GENESIS 2.0T	94,000	$15,800	$148
TR27846	2011 FORD ESCAPE XLT 4WD	71,600	$15,950	$127
B82526	2015 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM	13,133	$15,990	$112
16T268A	2012 DODGE JOURNEY SE	25,600	$15,990	$130
P10224A	2013 VW BEETLE 2.5 AUTO	29,500	$15,999	$115
P10253	2011 FORD RANGER SPORT	61,000	$15,999	$151
B82513	2011 FORD RANGER SPORT 4X4	57,437	$16,990	$134
16105	2013 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN	57,724	$16,990	$119
4626	2015 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM	19,500	$17,990	$117
G-936A	2011 FORD EDGE SE	120,825	$17,990	$142
B82491	2013 FORD ESCAPE SE AWD	92,401	$18,490	$129
B10304	2012 TOYOTA RAV4 AWD	79,670	$18,499	$149
B82452	2013 FORD ESCAPE SE 2.0	88,088	$18,998	$133
T21438	2012 F150 XLT CREW 4X4	89,650	$19,990	$162
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B5994	2015 DODGE JOURNEY SXT	33,600	$21,990	$158
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F-1268A	2012 F150 XLT CREW 4X4	141,500	$21,990	$177
SG0252A	2012 HONDA CR-V EX-L AWD	94,181	$22,037	$178
F-143A	2014 E250 CARGO VAN	48,787	$22,950	$159
G-613A	2013 VE TIGUAN AWD	51,426	$22,950	$159
27825	2012 LINCOLN MKT AWD	121,192	$22,950	$180
F-2630A	2011 RAM 1500 SLT 4X4	104,000	$22,990	$181
GK-93A	2015 JEEP CHEROKEE NORTH	12,170	$22,990	$159
PG0520A	2013 CHEVY EQUINOX LT AWD	28,039	$23,849	$157
G-736A	2012 F150 XLT CREW 4X4	91,549	$23,990	$193
F-2699A	2012 RAM 1500 ST HEMI	70,626	$23,990	$188
BF6405	2012 RAM 1500 SLT 4X4	42,575	$24,847	$200
TR27858	2013 F150 XLT LWB 4X4	97,220	$24,990	$172
27896	2012 F150 XTR LWB 4X4	76,308	$24,990	$196
G-320B	2012 RAM 1500 SLT CREW	87,000	$24,995	$197
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Your essential daily news

People mag names Jennifer Aniston, 47, the World's Most Beautiful Woman

Bif bares her soul

MUSIC

Punk great launches tour for memoir and acoustic sound

Elisha Dacey
Metro | Winnipeg

One would expect a memoir by Canada's queen of punk to be more about heavy days of partying than facing breast cancer or embracing yoga.

But Bif Naked defies the stereotypes in her new memoir, I, Bificus, launched across the country Tuesday.

"I was encouraged for a long time by my manager Peter, who's been my manager for 25 years," says Bif, speaking to Metro from her home in Vancouver.

"I think after breast cancer, I had a heart surgery in 2012, just with my divorce (she married Vancouver sports writer Ian Walker), the stories kept coming up over the years.

"There's part of me that didn't want to write a book because I felt it was so, you know, the classic book of secrets. It was just so common, all these musicians were writing books. It was like everyone was aging out, so these books came to be."

The memoir takes the reader on Bif's journey from being adopted by American Missionaries from her teenage New Delhi parents, through her time in Winnipeg, her marriage and divorce, and delves into things like her bisexuality and her parents' influence.

"I interviewed my parents. I really wanted to include them in the book and I wanted their life's work they were doing in the '60s and their missionary work. They're a huge influence."

Out of the book a tour has been born, one that features both her latest acoustic songs and excerpts from the book. "It's more like a play," she said. "The tour is called Songs and Stories, we'll be reading from the book and then playing some songs, some audience stuff."

That audience participation is why she chose smaller venues for the tour. "It just seems to work better. I like to have the audience participate a little bit," even though it can get cheeky, said Bif, noting she once had a guy moon his boss on stage.

A part-time motivational speaker, Bif said speaking to a crowd is much different from doing a reading.

"Reading, instead of speaking, is a lot — you know, I had to get glasses. I had to get glasses! F—! What am I going to do? So that's funny, I don't know how that's going to work."

IN PERSON

The songs and stories tour dates:

- May 12 at the Venue in Vancouver
- May 13 at the Marquee in Calgary
- May 14 at The Needle in Edmonton
- May 16 at The Park Theatre in Winnipeg
- May 17 at Adelaide Hall in Toronto.

METRO

PHOTO BY KAROLINA TUREK

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The rise of the personal memoir

POPULAR BOOKS

Extraordinary stories from ordinary people appeal to readers

Jeff Mahoney

As we approach World Book Day in Canada (Sat., April 23), a quick glance at the Toronto Star's bestseller's list (non-fiction) confirms a growing trend: personal memoirs are hot.

Atop the current ranking is Phyllis Whitsell's My Secret Mother, a true-life account in the inspirational mode. Whitsell, a nurse from Birmingham, England, tells the story of a girl placed in an orphanage from the age of eight months, then adopted and later told her birth parents had died of tuberculosis. Suspecting the latter not to be true, the author embarks at age 23 on a search for her biological mother.

Following closely behind My Secret Mother on the best-seller's list is Paul Kalanithi's When Breath Becomes Air, a memoir by a young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal cancer diagnosis.

"Memoirs and biography are always popular but this — the inspirational variety of memoir — relates to a genre of memoir. Stories everyone can relate to," says Brad Wilson, editorial director of HarperCollins, who brought My Secret Mother to Canada from England, where it was published by Times Mirror. "We would call it extraordinary stories from everyday people. These are the people next door, so to speak, but they do extraordinary things or have extraordinary things happen to them. There have been real difficulties, and there's a redemptive element to the story."

Further to that element of redemption, personal memoirs tend to embody virtues that endear them to legions of readers: humility of circumstance, resourcefulness in the face of adversity, a measure of courage, culminating — if not always in triumph — in a hard-won accommodation with whatever life has thrown at the protagonist.

400%

Total sales in the category of memoir increased more than 400 per cent between 2004 and 2008 in North America.

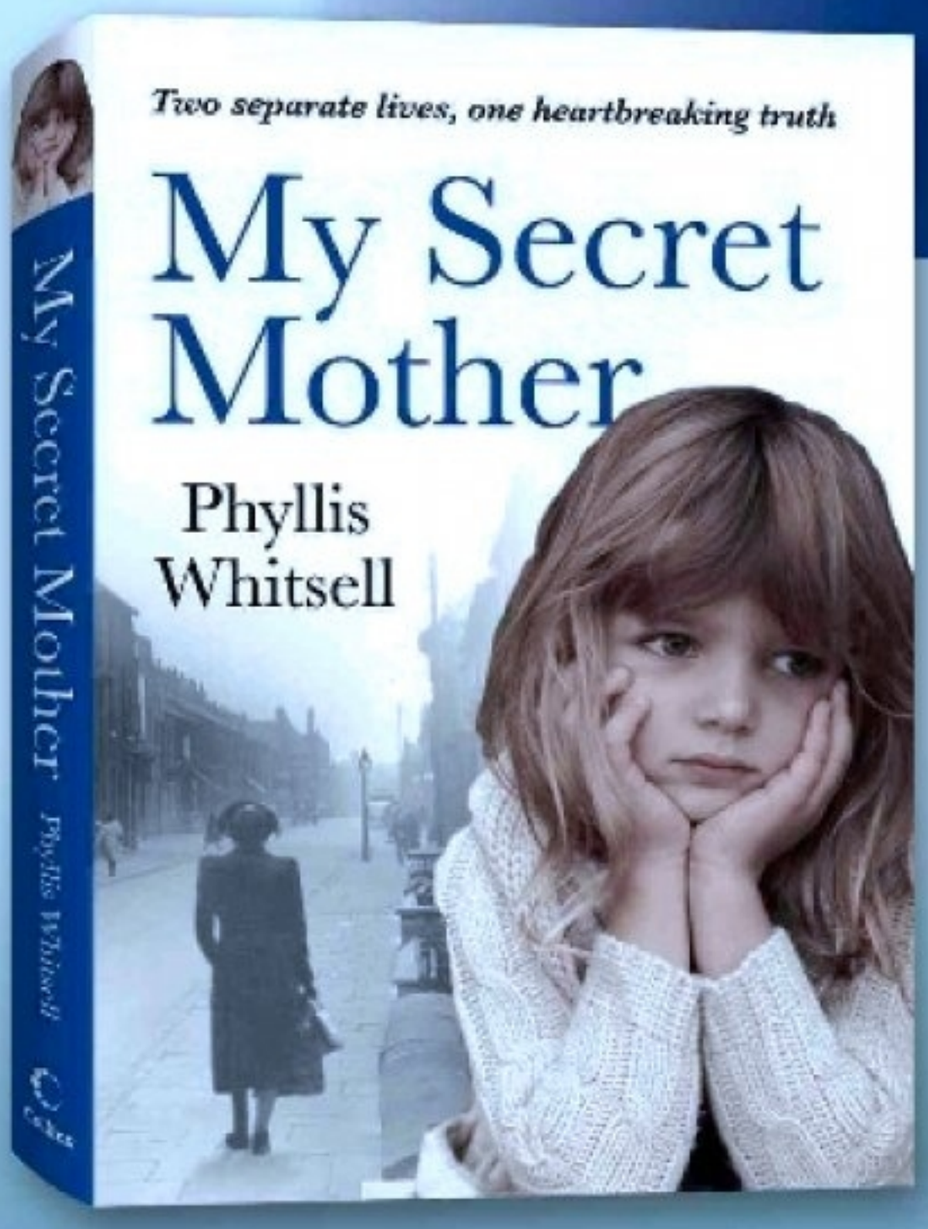
The recent popularity of personal memoirs could arguably be traced back to Frank McCourt's Angela's Ashes, which has sold more than 10 million copies in North America alone. Wilson also points to Dave Pelzer's memoir of childhood abuse, A Child Called It, which was another important work in this tradition.

There is little doubt of the growing popularity of this genre. Total sales in the category of memoir increased more than 400 per cent between 2004 and 2008 in North America, according to journalism professor Ben Yagoda, author of Memoir: A History.

Meanwhile, in Canada personal memoir accounts for a small percentage of total book sales, but it is a consistently growing share. Currently 1.2 to 1.6 per cent of books sold in Canada are categorized as personal memoir, compared to less than one per cent a few years ago, according to Zalina Alvi, marketing and communications manager with BookNetCanada.

Wilson at HarperCollins is certainly onside. The publisher has a number of recent and upcoming memoirs, including The Child Bride by Cathy Glass, Secret Child by Gordon Lewis, The Little Prisoner by Jane Elliott and My Secret Sister by Helen Edwards and Jenny Lee Smith.

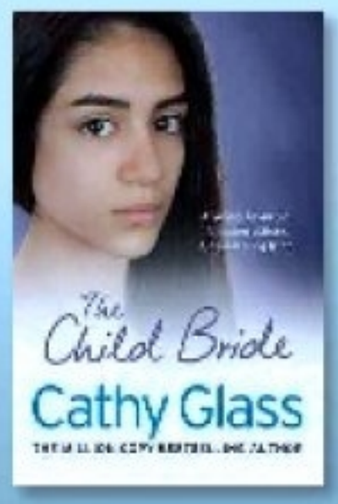
Phyllis Whitsell of Birmingham, England, is the author of the best-selling memoir My Secret Mother. CONTRIBUTED



#1 BESTSELLER

One woman's search for the mother she never knew.

If you liked *My Secret Mother*, you should read...



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‘Local stranger’ in a strange little town

BOOK REVIEWS

Sara Baume on ‘using the materials of everyday life’

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Sara Baume was in her twenties, living in an apartment above a hair salon in a coastal Irish village, when the rescue dog first came into her life. She was feeling like an outsider and struggling with her career as a sculptor.

The dog had lost an eye in a badger-baiting fight — a vicious, illegal blood sport in which canines are pitted to the death against the feisty weasel-like mammals. Usually, injured animals are euthanized but for some unknown reason this dog survived, and found his way into a local shelter.

“I wanted to feel like I had done something good; that I could look after something, that something could rely on me,” says Baume. “So I got the most lost-cause dog I could find. No one wanted him. I wanted to feel like I’d rescued something that no one else wanted.”

Baume’s relationship with her dog became the inspiration for her debut novel, Spill Simmer Falter Wither, published in North America by HMH Books.

It’s the heartbreaking but beautifully told story of a fifty-something-year-old man, who despite the fact that he grew up and has never left his small Irish town, is openly shunned and treated with suspicion by the community.

Still living in his childhood home, he is haunted by the memory of his abusive father and unable to emotionally connect with, let alone talk to, other humans.

He impulsively decides to adopt a mangy, one-eyed dog, but when the animal is accused of biting a child, the man panics and the two make their escape.

> **In many ways I’m doing what I did as a sculptor.**
> Sara Baume

“This is a guy who feels lonely because he feels watched in a way. He knows that everyone knows who he is, and can’t put a foot wrong for something as simple as his dog biting someone without feeling demonized by the locals who have always been suspicious because he’s not really one of them,” says Baume, who believes that the character came out of her own feelings of being treated like a “local stranger.”

The seaside village Baume captured in the book is modelled after the one in which she was residing, after a decade of living in Dublin. “When the tide went out it was just mudflats and there was a power station on one side and an oil refinery on the other,” she says.

“It was a strange, strange little town.”

Despite its lack of beauty, Baume pulled details from the local landscape into the novel; observations she made while taking her dog out over the changing seasons.

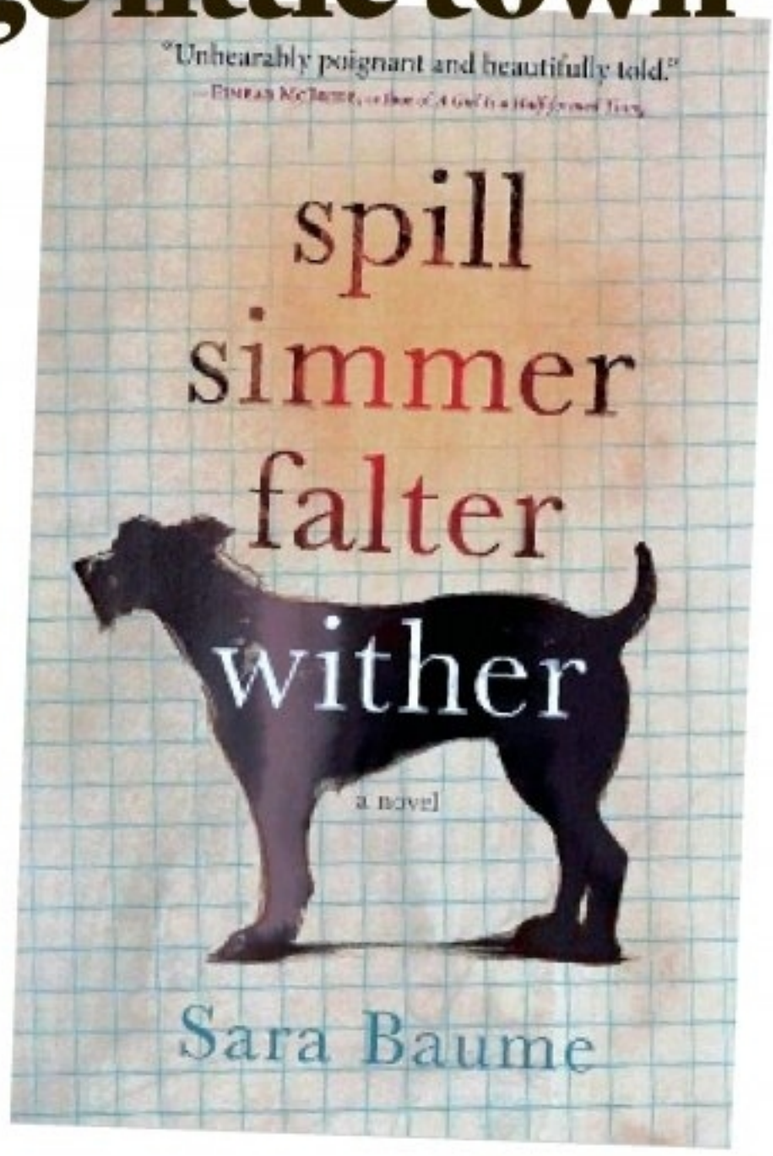
“It’s not much of a walk because the dog is stopping all the time sniffing things,” she says.

“I suppose it caused me to slow down and look at details of my surroundings and learn the names of the trees and the flowers and the seabirds.”

Although Spill Simmer Falter Wither quickly established Baume as a novelist to watch — she won the 2015 Rooney Prize for Irish Literature given to emerging writers under the age of 40 — she still considers her writing as part of her broader artistic practice.

“In many ways I’m doing what I did as a sculptor,” she says, “using the materials of everyday life, found objects and images, and piecing them together.”

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



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Wonderlist.ca

THE MEDDLER follows Marnie Minervini (Susan Sarandon), recent widow and eternal optimist, as she moves from New Jersey to Los Angeles to be closer to her daughter (Rose Byrne). Armed with an iPhone and a full bank account, Marnie sets out to make friends, find her purpose, and possibly open up to someone new.
Visit wonderlist.ca today to enter for your chance to win 1 of 120 double passes to an advance screening of The Meddler.
No purchase necessary. Skill test question required. Contest open to Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Nova Scotia residents | 18 years of age or older. Odds of winning dependent on the number of eligible entries received. One hundred and twenty (120) prizes are available to be won consisting of a double pass to an advance screening of The Meddler, ARV $25.00 CDN. Contest opens April 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. EST and closes April 22, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. EST. To enter and for complete contest rules please visit wonderlist.ca.

AWARD

David Huebert wins short story prize

David Huebert HANDOUT

Halifax native David Huebert is the winner of the 2016 CBC Short Story Prize.

Huebert will be awarded $6,000 from the Canada Council for the Arts for his winning entry Enigma.

Huebert’s short story will be published in the May edition of Air Canada’s enRoute magazine, and he’ll also receive a 10-day writing residency at the Banff Centre.

His first poetry collection We Are No Longer The Smart Kids In Class (Guernica Editions) was published last fall, and his fictional work has appeared in magazines including Grain, Broken Pencil, subTerrain and The Puritan.

Four runners-up for the prize will each receive $1,000. They are:

- Matthew Belyea of Saint John, N.B., for Jake, the Imposter.
- Justine Mazin of Toronto for Packing Snow.
- Stephanie Kennedy Sobol of Toronto for 20 Percent Donnas.
- Elaine Stirling of Toronto for Restitution.
- Johanne Alice Cote was named winner of the French grand prize for Je t’ecrirai dans l’air.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BOOK BRIEFS

Short fiction by Fitzgerald, Munro to be issued as e-books

Classic stories by F. Scott Fitzgerald and Alice Munro and lesser known works by Maeve Binchy and Alexander McCall Smith will be among those published in May as stand-alone, 99 cent e-books to mark National Short Story Month. Vintage Books/Anchor Books announced Tuesday that it will issue a story each day next month, 31 in all. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steinem among winners of Books for a Better Life Award

Feminist and author Gloria Steinem and Hollywood producer Brian Glazer are among this year’s winners of the Books for a Better Life Award. The New York City-Southern New York Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society presented the awards Monday night. The awards honour “self-improvement” authors and help raise money for programs and services helping people with MS. Steinem was commended for her memoir My Life On the Road and Glazer for A Curious Mind.

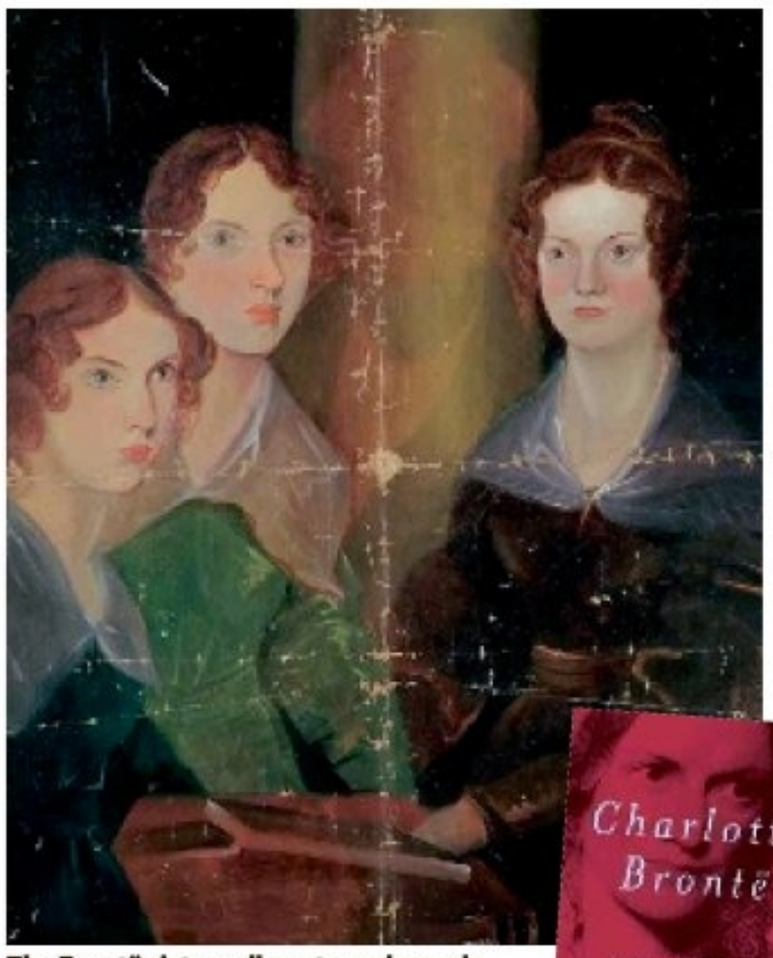
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

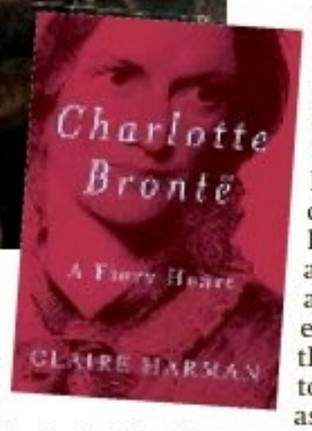
Explore the fiery heart of Charlotte Brontë

PROFILE

Biography marks 200th anniversary of writer's birth

The Brontë sisters — Charlotte, Emily and Anne — were recluses who wrote under male pseudonyms about passionate relationships and violent liaisons they never themselves experienced. They were raised in a Yorkshire village by their stolid father, Patrick, a widowed clergyman. This month marks the 200th anniversary of Charlotte Brontë's birth. Literary biographer Claire Harman has explored the author's life in her latest book, Charlotte Brontë: A Fiery Heart. Our conversation has been condensed.





The Brontë sisters all wrote under male pseudonyms. HANDOUT

Charlotte Brontë led a circumscribed life but she was able to reach out to the wider world through literature.

It is fascinating because of that inability to function in society — there were stories of her being tongue-tied or turning her face to the wall — that degree of self-consciousness and social ineptitude would make you think it was impossible to have a totally different voice in her writing.

Charlotte had a very strong mental landscape that was so alluring to her but there was always a danger of it becoming a psychosis. She reverted so often to her own thoughts, the voices in her head, that she was quite often on the brink of a breakdown.

She was on the borderline between the imagination and the real world, being normal and completely abnormal. We are lucky to catch the products of that strange mind because she very, very nearly didn't get published.

Charlotte led a miserable life. She had to cope with the death of her sisters and her brother Branwell, who became a reckless opium addict and alcoholic. She cast characters in the personae of her younger sisters but didn't use the family tragedies as part of the plots in her novels. Her characters suffered, yes, but often came round to a happy end. Like Jane Eyre finally marrying the blind Rochester.

That's only partially true. Her novels are profoundly autobiographical, although they don't exploit the absolute horrors she lived through. Her life was a lot more Gothic than her novels.

She does feed things into the novels. A lot of scholars see the madwoman in the attic in Jane Eyre as a Branwell-esque, a hidden, shameful family member, who is crazed with mad power. Branwell set his own bed alight in real life when he was drunk.

Villette has this incredible weight of suffering in it. It remains a peculiar and upsetting book. Its autobiographical elements are hard to spot but she couldn't have written that weird novel without going through an appalling year, 1848-49, when Branwell, Emily and Anne died in such rapid succession. It was a life full of tragedy and deprivation. It is also a life lacking in any fun or pleasure.

Brontë spent time with some of the leading writers of her day, including Charles Dickens. Did any of them have influence on her?

You can't tell what any Brontë read, but it is clear Charlotte read at least Nicholas Nickleby and probably Oliver Twist, and that Dickens was influenced by Jane Eyre — even though he never read it — to write David Copperfield as a child narrative. Eyre was the first book to have a child narrator.

She admired William Thackeray (author of Vanity Fair) in exactly the ways Thackeray wanted to be admired, as morally superior to Dickens. He was a worldly and a hilariously comedic writer. She also admired Elizabeth Gaskell. (Gaskell wrote a biography of Brontë just after her death.)

Tell me how you learned about Charlotte's life.

Her friend Ellen Nussey received 500 letters from Charlotte and without them we'd hardly know anything about the family. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> She reverted so often to her thoughts, to the voices in her head, that she was quite often on the brink of a breakdown.
> Biographer Claire Harman

NEW RELEASE

A graphic story that inspires with delight

The Art of Charlie Chan Hock Chye
BY: Sonny Liew
PUBLISHER: Pantheon, 320 pages, $39

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

Only rarely can a book inspire such delight and joy as this. It is a treasure of graphic storytelling, not least because it does things that only graphic storytelling can do.

It works on several levels, wonderfully. Liew presents the fictional life story of Chan, an elderly comics artist in Singapore, through reprinting his work, from full strips to scraps of crumpled paper, and framing it with interview-style sequences featuring Chan, and sometimes Liew.

Simultaneously, he presents the compelling modern history of Singapore, as Chan lives through social and political change and folds it into his comics work with varying amounts of subtlety.

Meanwhile, this is also the history of comic books, reflected in Chan's changing style and adding a layer of fun for comic book fans who can spot the references.

Everything here is gorgeous and rewarding, adding up to one of 2016's most important graphic novels. It's perfect.

Meet the Cali girl who talks back

AUTHOR INTERVIEW

Teen character in YA novel defends her queer family

Melita Kuburas
Metro | Canada

Anti-gay laws in North Carolina and Mississippi are all over the news on the day Mariko Tamaki and I speak in early April. Bruce Springsteen cancelled his show in Greensboro, North Carolina, scheduled for the previous night, and his stand "against prejudice and bigotry" is all over Facebook.

As legislation in these Republican-controlled Southern states encroaches on the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals in the U.S., stories of people being denied marriage licences and using the bathroom of their choice are becoming more common.

Tamaki tackles the subject of religion and sexuality in her new young adult book, Saving Montgomery Sole. The Canadian author says she sometimes can't even look at her news feed because of the flood of articles about people within the LGBT community being denied their rights.

"It's something that I really struggled with — this movement by a religious right to discriminate against and to curtail the rights of a group of people. I find it really hard to deal with. So I try to tap into that a little bit in this book," says Tamaki, who now lives in California.

Tamaki wanted to create a character who talks back — someone who is "intensely vocal" about discrimination based on sexuality.

Her valiant heroine is Montgomery Sole, a high school student with a curiosity for retro experiments like backmasking, and ordering magic stones with special powers over the internet for her Mystery Club.

Unsurprisingly, Montgomery's style of oversize, stained clothing (hand-me-downs from one of her moms) and insatiable appetite for pizza, pancakes and avocados make her an outsider in Aunty, California, where everyone is obsessed with carb-free froyo. But the bullying escalates whenever the focus turns to her family — her lesbian moms and the fact that Montgomery and her younger sister, Tesla, were conceived from a sperm donor.

At Tesla's soccer game, when the moms go in for a smooch, a snotty teen sitting in the bleachers described as High Bun grouses: "Let's get out of here before they like, rape us." Monty is within earshot.

But it isn't until a religious preacher known on YouTube for his "The Reverend White vs. Gay Wedding" video moves into town that things escalate for Monty.

As the reverend tries to impose his "save the American family" message on others, the consequences reverberate through the school. But Montgomery becomes even more frustrated when her own sister wants to start praying, going to church and mounts a cross on her bedroom door.

Tamaki wanted to present two different perspectives on religion in the book.

"Christianity is about community and love and forgiveness, but it's also got this other layer to it. I wanted to try to blur all those things and also to explore conflict within a family where you have a situation like discrimination and how various people experience it and deal with," she says.

She's had her own positive experiences with religion and growing up in Toronto.

"It's not that I think that the experience of discrimination is across the board," she says. "So there's a variety of people who represent different perspectives and approaches in this book."

PREVIOUS WORK

Mariko Tamaki's last book, This One Summer, was in February pulled from school libraries in Florida for sexual content. Though the coming-of-age graphic novel was never meant for kids, it was awarded the Caldecott Honor, a prize for the 'most distinguished American picture book for children,' which may have caused confusion, the author says. "I don't think it's for kids but I don't think it's a book to be banned."

Tamaki happened to be in Florida at the time — amused by the dramatic TV news stories, she says she contemplated going to the districts herself. What would she have done in response?

"I don't' know, probably eaten an ice cream on the steps or something," she jokes.

Saving Montgomery Sole by Mariko Tamaki is out now. CONTRIBUTED

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Property Brothers pen book on their mistakes

Property Brothers stars Drew, left, and Jonathan Scott are now New York Times bestselling authors. DENNYS ILIC/HO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Q&A

TV stars share tips from their New York Times bestseller

As if simultaneously filming four TV series wasn't enough for Drew and Jonathan Scott, the Property Brothers stars added to their already stacked schedules with book-writing duties.

Two years of work has paid off for the twin brothers, who can now add "New York Times bestselling authors" to their resumés with the recent release of Dream Home: The Property Brothers' Ultimate Guide to Finding & Fixing Your Perfect House (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). Reached en route to a book signing in Toronto, real estate expert Drew and contractor Jonathan discussed mistakes they've made over the years, how homeowners should determine whether to stay or go, and tips on converting spaces for short- and long-term rentals.

What are some of the mistakes or mishaps that you've learned from, and how have you incorporated those lessons into the book?

Drew Scott: Overspending was one of the things that we did in the very beginning. We wanted to have the most beautiful house on the block that stood out from everything else, not realizing that some of the items we were putting in we weren't getting the money back from when we sold. For example, in a first-time buyer community, you don't want to spend a ton of money — thousands of extra dollars — on stone counters because first-time buyers just want counters. They don't care what they're made of.

Jonathan Scott: We tell clients all the time you need to know your neighbourhood, you need to know what buyers would expect, and any time you do an improvement, you always need to think of resale value. Even if you think you're never going to sell, people's lives change, things change.

What about people who say: "Forget dream home: How can I get a home? How can I get into the market?" That dream seems further and further out of reach for a lot of Canadians.

JS: In the big city centres like Toronto and Vancouver where it's so expensive it's hard to get in to start, that's where we say to people: start early. Because the older you get, the harder it is to make compromises. As you start to have a family, you can't necessarily have three kids and a husband and wife and be in a one-bedroom apartment. If you start when you're younger, and it's just you and you get into a smaller condo, it allows you to get into the market. And then, you grow your equity a lot faster once you're in it. That allows you to change over to something a little bit bigger and — from time and time — sell and upgrade.

One of the things you discuss in the book is for people in existing homes, the question: "Should I stay or should I go?"

What are some things to consider?

JS: Maybe you absolutely love an area and you'd like to stay, but the house you're in, the floor plan doesn't work. Or you've started a family and you don't have enough space. It's usually not as cost-effective to try and do an addition or add a second storey to a home. Usually, it's more cost-effective to find a place that will work for you. On the flip side, sometimes people don't think about the moving costs, everything that's involved, from lawyers to transfer taxes. By the time you look at what it would cost to move into a new place, you could have paid for the renovation on your existing place.

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Website aims to give public power over TV

The homepage for I'd Watch That. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TECHNOLOGY

I'd Watch That has viewers vote on teasers for potential series

You're mystified by the number of destined-for-failure shows on TV and figure you could make better picks than network executives. Or you sneer at the recycled concepts of too many dull series when you have a killer original story to tell.

Whether you fall into either camp or both, there's a new website for you to play on: I'd Watch That, which launched five months ago with some heavyweight financial backers. It invites aspiring TV makers to post a "sizzle" reel of up to two minutes in length that demonstrates an idea's potential to become a series. The public gets to judge the proposals, with research methodology used to analyze the results and create a popularity ranking, said CEO Tom Zito.

The goal is sell the top ideas to the exploding number of content-hungry broadcast, cable and online outlets with Big Picture Inc., the website's parent company, on board as a producer. The investors include William Randolph Hearst III; former AOL chairman and CEO Barry Schuler, and John Fisher of venture capital firm Draper Fisher Jurvetson.

I'd Watch That is designed as an open marketplace of TV ideas in a closed, relationship-bound industry, an approach that aims to turn the annual multibillion-dollar process of developing new series "on its head," said Zito, a journalist turned entrepreneur.

One proposal featured on I'd Watch That is The Last Templar, about a 14th-century vengeance-seeking survivor of the soldiers whose duties included protecting the Roman Catholic Church until they were betrayed.

Its creator is Daniel Madore, who earned a media and film degree in 2011 from the University of San Francisco. He's been paying his dues in a variety of jobs, while directing music videos and short films on the side.

"When it comes to getting your work shown, it is quite the headache and the grind," he said, with uncertainty surrounding every avenue from film festivals to YouTube. While he's cautiously optimistic about what the I'd Watch That website might yield, he says the concept has merit.

"Crowdsourcing is part of a new generation of viewers. The audience now has a very strong voice and one would be foolish to ignore it," Madore said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Although Ramsay Bolton gets most of the GoT fan hate, he's not the only Bolton who deserves it. Roose Bolton is as power hungry and conniving as a young Tywin Lannister and will stop at nothing to ensure the survival of House of Bolton. HBO

Game of Thrones: The things you never knew

BEHIND THE SCENES

Here's a touch of trivia just in time for the new season

As Season 6 starts April 24, obviously the most pressing question is whether a certain character is still alive, but here are five little-known truths about the show based on interviews with the cast.

The Pope and the High Sparrow

When the 68-year-old Welsh icon Jonathan Pryce was cast in 2014 as religious cult figure the High Sparrow, he was inspired to a degree by present-day Catholic leader Pope Francis. "Francis's election coincided with the High Sparrow's appearance," Pryce said. "And there was Francis going around, very publicly administering to the poor and acknowledging that he was a man of the people, so he wanted to do away with all the finery and the trappings of the Vatican. . . . That's how High Sparrow started; he wanted to be seen as a man of the people. He walks barefoot, he dresses in rags, he appears not to wash very often — a bit of a mistake, but there you go. And on the other hand, unlike Pope Francis, who is pleading for understanding of people's tics and phobias, he's dishing out punishments in a quite violent and aggressive way. So he's a great dichotomy."

Forgiveness for Melisandre

Carice van Houten is accustomed to hatred on social media because of her role as priestess Melisandre, particularly after convincing King Stannis Baratheon to burn his own daughter alive in Season 5, but she notes GoT fans will let even the most heinous bygones be bygones if she can bring back beloved hero Jon Snow. "I had so many people texting me on Twitter: "Die b—, die, when are you gonna die? Die die die!" van Houten said. "Then, when Jon Snow died, (they said), 'We'll forgive you if you bring Jon Snow back!'"

A Game of Math

Arguably the most impressive of all the series' feats is the use of limited airtime — 10 episodes at approximately 50 minutes apiece — to breathe life into a main cast that numbers in the dozens. "When David (Benioff) and Daniel (Weiss) start a season . . . what they're faced with first and foremost is a huge mathematical quandary," says John Bradley, a.k.a. Samwell Tarly. "Every single one of these characters needs to have a satisfying arc. They have to start at one place and finish at another place, and go through a journey throughout the season that has peaks and troughs, and they learn something and they're a different person in Episode 10 than they were in Episode 1. . . . The writing has to be very economical. . . . Everything has to progress, even if it is just two characters talking — which it is, quite a lot — that is designed to establish something about them. So something you thought was a piece of decorative information actually turns out to be vital."

Tywin the Younger

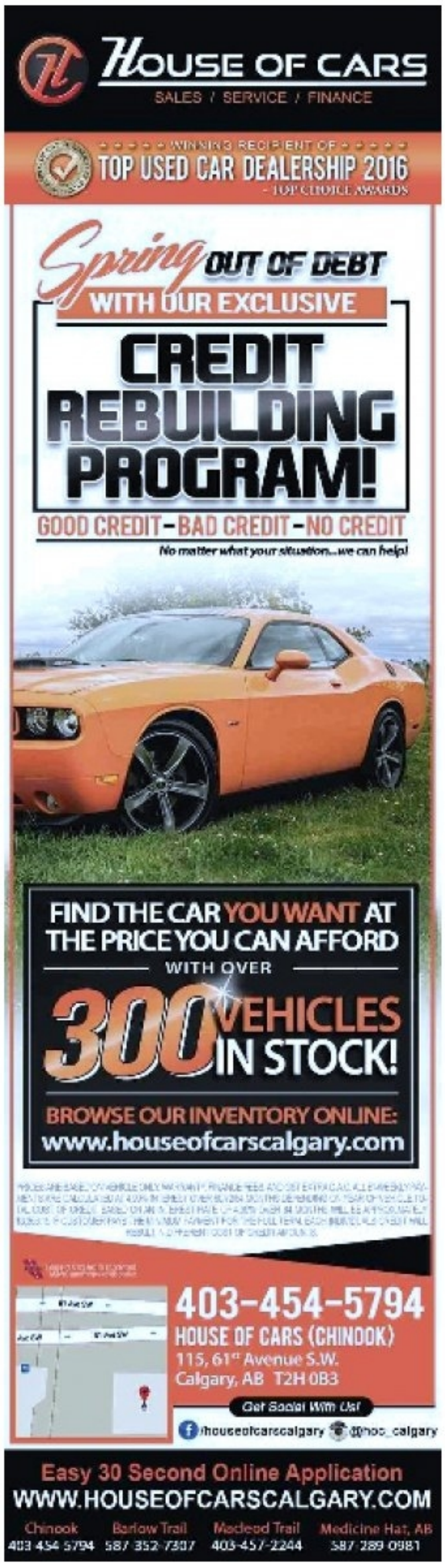
Although his psychotic son Ramsay Bolton gets most of the hate, Roose Bolton (Michael McElhatton) is quite the piece of work himself: a power-mad, whip-smart leader who'd switch allegiances in an eye's blink if it meant pushing him even slightly up the pecking order. If you're wondering why GoT never needed to show House Lannister patriarch Tywin Lannister (Charles Dance) in his youth, it's because they have his essence in Roose. "Incredibly strong parallels," McElhatton says. "That's (Roose's) absolute modus operandi; it's all about power and that's the way he's totally made up: as a cold, political figure who'll do anything for the upkeep and survival of House Bolton."

Blind Acting the Blind

Maisie Williams has different challenges in Season 6, not only in portraying a character struck blind (Arya Stark), but in effectively acting without sight. "I had to wear contact lenses that covered my whole eye and made them look murky and cloudy, and also made my vision murky and cloudy," Williams said. "I could see lights, but not really any shapes or anything like that. Pretending to be blind when you actually can't see anything is a lot easier than pretending to be blind with your eyes on full display. But I did my fair share of both, because Arya gets very physical (in Season 6) and does a lot of stunts, and so doing that without my vision was very, very difficult. We had a separate set of lenses that had little peepholes in, for safety for myself and other people."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"When Jon Snow died, (they said), 'We'll forgive you if you bring Jon Snow back."
Carice van Houten who plays priestess Melisandre on fan hate after her character convinced Stannis Baratheon to burn his daughter alive.



Growing up alongside Arya Stark

PERFECT ROLE

GoT role was first acting gig for young Maisie Williams

Maisie Williams is coping with blindness when we meet her again as Arya Stark in Season 6.
HBO

Arya Stark was no coddled child.

Born with a fiercely independent spirit, she spent her teens on Game of Thrones braving hardship, loneliness and combat. Physically small but handy with a sword, Arya's creed seemed to be "You go, girl!"

Her latest challenge, imposed at the end of last season: She was struck blind as punishment for going rogue with a personal hit list. She still has bloody scores to settle. How will she cope now?

Among the legions of characters on Game of Thrones, Arya has remained one of its most popular throughout the first five seasons of this epic fantasy set in the make-believe continent of Westeros.

Now, as the sixth season nears (Sunday at 9 p.m. Eastern time on HBO), GOT devotees are ravenous for any advance intel on the show and its stars — who include Peter Dinklage, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Lena Headey, Emilia Clarke, Aiden Gillen and Sophie Turner as well as Maisie Williams, now 19, who, since she was 12, has invested Arya with her feisty charm.

So far, no beans have been spilled by any GOT insiders — though producers revealed months ago that this season, the plot will veer away from the George R.R. Martin books on which the show is based. And rest assured, if you bother to press Williams on how Arya is dealing with sightlessness, she will say, in the nicest way possible, don't waste MY time or YOURS.

Arya was the British-born Williams' first acting job, landed after an open casting call — a splashy way to enter the profession.

"I didn't know much about television or HBO," she says. "The reason it was so exciting was not because I thought, 'Oh, this could be a really big TV show.' It was more like, 'Oh, look! Maisie got cast in SOMETHING!'"

Of course, no one knew back then what a global phenomenon Game of Thrones would be. Williams says that hit home for her at the kickoff for season 3.

"We had our first proper premiere in L.A., and that was the first time I saw lots of fans in one place, and lots of paparazzi and cameras," she says. "I never believed that kind of thing actually happened, and there I was, standing in the middle of it all. That was the first time I thought, 'Wow, my life is changing.'"

Since the beginning, she and Arya — each growing and learning — have followed somewhat parallel tracks in their development.

"I was just like Arya when I was little," she recalls. "I was no daughter of a lord like Arya, but I definitely preferred playing with my brothers more than with my sister. I used to watch my sister straightening and combing her hair and thought, 'Oooh, that looks like so much effort!'"

More fashion-forward than her sackcloth-clad alter ego, Williams during a recent interview is her own version of the woman-child Arya is becoming. She is five-foot-one, chatty and candid (except for GOT spoilers), and, though richly punctuating what she says with giggles, she speaks thoughtfully about her future beyond Game of Thrones, whenever that may be.

"Just because I've had a very good opportunity and my foot is in the door doesn't mean my career is going to last forever," she says. "I have to fight for it. I have to prove that I can stay in this industry."

But the role of Arya, and the opportunity it has given Williams to grow with it, may very well help carry her across that gulch that leaves so many child actors behind, helping her transition into future adult roles.

"We are both very different girls now than the ones we were when we first met each other," Williams notes.

In the meantime, her current off-screen role includes keeping all those GOT secrets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Unbelievable insults from a young woman

THE SHOW: Doctor Foster, Season 1, Episode 5 (Lifetime/Netflix)
THE MOMENT: The Bitch Slap

Every woman seems jealous of Dr. Gemma Foster, left.
CONTRIBUTED

Dr. Gemma Foster (Suranne Jones), who's 37, and her husband Simon (Bertie Carvel), who's 40, are having dinner at their neighbours, the Parks'. The Parks' don't know that their 23-year-old daughter Kate (Jodie Comer) is sleeping with Simon. They're about to find out.

Calmly, eating all the while, Gemma drops bomb after bomb about Kate (who's seated beside her), and about Simon's business deal with Parks. "You're a bitch," Kate says.

"Bitch is right," Gemma replies. "And I'm a wolf tonight."

Kate stands to leave. Suddenly, she smacks Gemma on the back of the head. "You ancient f—king cow!" Kate cries.

If this show were a book, this is the moment I'd have thrown it across the room. A few episodes ago, I'd been intrigued. I love Jones (Scott & Bailey), and to watch her think her way through an emotional thriller? Sign me up.

But soon alarm bells were sounding. Every woman here is treacherous; they're jealous of Gemma, or think she's a snob, or both. And this is the level of insight into why Simon cheated: "All men want to."

It was the word "ancient" that did me in, though. It wasn't the first time Kate called Gemma old, but it was the most ridiculous. I don't buy that a 23-year-old who's sleeping with a 40-year-old would call a 37-year-old — who looks like Jones — a hag.

If you're going to turn a domestic drama into The Real Housewives of Small-Town England, you've got to give me something better than that.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

metro HOME
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Gardeners can help protect butterfly populations by planting milkweed plants

MEET THE CONDO

Small-town feel with city access

CONTRIBUTED

Project overview

These new and affordable units located next to downtown Cochrane are ready for immediate possession and come complete with thousands of dollars in upgrades. Prices for residential property are among the most affordable in the Calgary area, offering an ideal combination of proximity and affordability.

Housing amenities

Each unit comes with heated underground parking and access to bicycle storage and home warranty. There are three buildings located adjacent to each other, each one with beautiful views. Each unit comes with free digital television and Internet for a year.

Location and transit

Located just 25 minutes from Calgary's city centre and less than an hour away from the majestic Rocky Mountains, residents are able to enjoy the small-town ambiance while having quick access to downtown Calgary and the beautiful views and activities offered by the Rocky Mountains. Quick access to Highway 1A takes you right into the city.

In the neighbourhood

If you're an adventure enthusiast, you'll love the many activities Cochrane has to offer, including hang gliding, hiking, rafting, horseback riding and sunset watching. Cochrane has the amenities of a big city with small-town charm, including schools, parks and retail.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

NEED TO KNOW

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Location: Downtown Cochrane
Building: Total of three buildings
Sizes: 895 square feet and 1145 square feet
Pricing: Low $200s
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Status: Final closeout sale on May 7
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Hours: By appointment only
Email: Calgary@carlislegroup.ca
Phone: 403-837-1464
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KRISTA SYLVESTER/FOR METRO

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

1 PRE-SELLING

1741 by Truman Homes: These luxury units are located in Killarney near 17th Avenue and 26 Street S.W., just two blocks away from the Shaganappi Point CTrain station, making it the ideal location. Check out the presentation centre at 105 19th Street N.W.

2 PRE-SELLING

Glas by Avalon Master Builder: This Marda Loop project is for the environmentally conscious. The highest standards in energy efficiency and water conservation are followed in this three-storey condo project. Check out the sales centre at 102-1808 27 Avenue S.W.

3 NOW SELLING

Smith by Grosvenor: Perfectly located in the city's bustling Beltline, Smith features 129 boutique-style homes in the heart of the city's cultural district. Check out the presentation centre located on the second floor of 850 16th Ave. S.W.

METRO

DIY lace doilies that can do more

CRAFTING

Scuff stoppers transform into cool bowls in five easy steps

Stuck with grandma's old lace doilies? Turn them into fashionable bowls you can use. Breathe new life into that stash of crocheted doilies you inherited or pick some up from a thrift shop.

They are easily transformed into sturdy bowls to stash all sorts of odds and ends.

Doilies easily turn into sturdy bowls to stash everything from jewelry to craft supplies. DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Step 1: Gather and shop for the supplies:
We used a fabric stiffener readily available at craft stores, but you can also look online for recipes made using sugar water or corn starch or potato starch as stiffeners.

Choose bowls that are slightly larger than the doily.

Try experimenting with different sized bowls and doilies. You will need:

- Lace doilies, any size with a white background
- Bowls
- Fabric stiffener (we used Mod Podge Stiffy)
- Plastic wrap
- Plastic container for fabric stiffener

Step 2: Prepare and protect the bowls by wrapping them in plastic.
Turn the bowl upside down and wrap the outside of the bowl in a layer of plastic wrap to prevent the fabric stiffener from sticking to it and making a mess. Ensure that the plastic wrap is wrapped snugly around the bowl.

Step 3: Soak the doily in the fabric stiffener mixture until saturated.
Pour the fabric stiffener product into a plastic container. Submerge the doily in the stiffener, soaking it completely. Squeeze out excess liquid.

Step 4: Place the doily over the bowl and let dry.
Drape the soaked doily over the bowl. Be sure to centre the doily on the bowl and use your fingers to smooth and press the doily so it is as flat and smooth as possible. This will ensure the doily will have a flat bottom so it sits flat on a table. Let the doily dry on the bowl for approximately 24 hours or until the doily is completely dry.

Step 5: Remove the doily from the mould.
Once the doily is completely dry, gently loosen the doily from the plastic wrapped bowl. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RETAIL

Not feeling crafty? Buy it

Not a fan of sticky fingers? We found five pretty bowls and baskets that give you the lacy look without all of the work.

1 Vilks Pottery
Rustic stoneware bowls with a lace pattern from an Etsy shop based in Dundas, Ontario. Large Lace Stoneware Bowls.
Ready to ship in three to five business days.

2 Anthropologie
Add a little vintage flair to your home with this fragrant candle. Capri Blue Lace Pot Candle
Ready to ship.

3 Knot Therapy
A delicate crocheted bowl is pretty on a table but sturdy enough to stash belongings from this Etsy shop full of crocheted treasures. Blue Crocheted Lace Bowl. Ready to ship in one to three business days.

4 Putti Fine Furnishings
Medium round lace basket
A hand-crocheted lace basket big enough to stash freshly laundered linens.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Some natural superstars for DIY green cleaning

The stars of green cleaning are vinegar, household soap, bicarbonate of soda, lemon and essential oils. AFP

ENVIRONMENT

Natural ways to keep your home looking its best

With Earth Day on April 22, you might be looking for a greener way to keep your home clean. As well as reducing exposure to synthetic chemical components, DIY products are great money-savers.

To get started making your own cleaning products, stock up on these five key ingredients: white vinegar, household soap, bicarbonate of soda, lemon and essential oils.

A multi-purpose cleaner
Keep it simple by mixing a multi-purpose cleaning product for tiled surfaces, laminate and melamine-finished surfaces, kettles, water jugs, etc. To a one litre bottle or container, add one tablespoon of bicarbonate of soda, one tablespoon of white vinegar and one tablespoon of the essential oil of your choice (lavender, rosemary, lemon or lime). Top up with a litre of hot water to dissolve all the ingredients. Close the lid and give the bottle a good shake to mix.

Floor cleaner
Fill a bucket with 10 litres of water then add three tablespoons of liquid black soap and two tablespoons of soda crystals. Then add a dozen drops of tea tree essential oil and a few drops of lemon or orange essential oil to give the mix a pleasant scent.

Liquid dish soap
To make natural dishwashing liquid, fill an old dish soap bottle (thoroughly washed) with 60 centilitres (about 3 cups) of liquid household soap (Castile soap, Marseille soap, etc.). Then add 15 drops of lemon essential oil, six drops of lavender essential oil and five drops of bergamot essential oil, plus one teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda. Shake well.

Fridge cleanser
Lemon is nature's ultimate anti-bacterial and odour-fighting agent. This makes it ideal for cleaning inside fridges. To get the best out of its properties, mix two tablespoons of bicarbonate of soda with the juice of half a lemon and five drops of lemon essential oil into a bowl of warm water.

Dusting and polishing spray
Black soap is a much cheaper alternative to industrially made products for dusting furniture. To make a litre of product, add a knob of black soap and five drops of eucalyptus or grapefruit essential oil to a spray bottle and mix thoroughly.

Window cleaner
Vinegar is the product of choice for green windows cleaning with smear-free sparkle. To make a half litre of window cleaning spray, mix 400 ml of white vinegar with 100 ml of water, then add five drops of tea tree or orange essential oil. Pour the mix into a spray bottle. AFP

+ DETERGENT

Make your own 100 per cent natural laundry detergent:

• Buy a box of household soap flakes. To make two litres of detergent, heat a liter of water then add 100g of soap flakes and three tablespoons of bicarbonate of soda.

• Mix until the flakes have fully dissolved then leave the mixture to stand for at least an hour. Pour the liquid into a storage container, top up with a litre of lukewarm water, then add a few drops of essential oil.

• Shake well. If the product still seems too thick the next day, it can be diluted with a litre of water. Switch the bicarbonate of soda for soda crystals to make laundry detergent for colours.

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Knowing your furniture footprint

SIZE MATTERS

Choose the right sofa or dining-room table best suited for your home

Tanya Enberg

Eva Healy, principal designer and owner of interior design firm, Avenue Design, says furniture size is essential to the flow of the room. JONATHAN NICHOLLS

When creating a knockout space with optimal function, flow and balance, selecting the right size of furniture is essential.

But, determining how big a sofa, chair or coffee table should be can stump many amateur designers.

"A lot of people make the basic mistake of either buying furniture too big or too small for the space," said Eva Healy, principal designer and owner of interior design firm, Avenue Design.

"Too big furniture won't make the most of the room and will create a bulky feel to the space, taking up the footprint without adding to the functionality of room," she said. "Furniture that is too small has the effect that everything is floating in the space and can look cluttered, as people try to make up for the fact that the room isn't filled by adding more pieces into it."

When approaching a new project, Julie Taylor, of Julie Taylor Interiors, says planning ahead saves plenty of headaches later. This means becoming good friends with your tape measure.

"If you can't get it through your door or down the staircase, you need to know now," she said.

"Also, map out the footprint of the furniture pieces you're considering. Use green painters tape on your floor, or create paper templates, so you'll know exactly how things will fit and if you'll have enough room to comfortably move around. Then go see the furniture pieces and try them out."

Meantime, Healy advises using a main piece, such as a sofa, as a focal point to anchor a room. Then, design from there, adding extra accent seating, a coffee table, and perhaps an ottoman.

"Think about the scale and proportion of the pieces you are looking for," Healy said.

"Remember that everything looks somewhat small in stores because they are sitting in a huge space with high ceilings," she said. "That same sofa or dining-room table that looks like the right size in the store might be too large in your own space once it's placed in an enclosed area with eight-foot ceilings."

Before perusing furniture and decor shops, take photographs of rooms being worked on and, if possible, go armed with a floor plan or dimensions, including the location and sizes of windows, a measuring tape, paint chips, and even flooring samples.

For those restyling on a budget, Taylor says even minor improvements can create a big impact, from a fresh coat of paint to eye-catching artwork, which she calls the "soul of the room."

While personal style is important, allowing aesthetic alone to be the main guide when purchasing an item can lead to a home-design flop.

"Keep the furniture neutral in colour, add pattern and texture in the area rug, accent pillows, artwork and drapery," said Taylor.

"These are items that can easily be changed out down the line but the expensive pieces withstand the test of time and whatever colour combo you want to do. Grey is still the go-to neutral as it's a clean starting point for both crisp whites and saturated colours, as well as jewel tones and beiges if you're more transitional or traditional in design aesthetic. There are many shades of grey, so keep in mind the accent colours you'll be using in the space and choose the right cool or warm grey to accommodate the general direction of the space."

Texture, patterns jazz up a space

Following years of minimalism, during which cool neutrals and subtle solids ruled the design scene, pattern is re-asserting itself. That's not surprising, given that geometrics, and motifs with flora and fauna have been cycling through home decor since we started painting on cave walls.

This spring, look for the emergence of jazzy wallpapers, embossed surfaces, architectural finishes, graphic pillows, and textiles embellished with embroidery.

Incorporating these decorative elements into a space can, however, pose a challenge for pattern-phobic homeowners.

In fact, accessories are the perfect way to introduce pattern, says design blogger Jennifer Flores, pointing to a spare room makeover she recently undertook.

"I thought about putting pattern in with wallpaper or moulding, but that felt like too big a commitment. I decided instead to use accessories," said Flores.

This spring is all about funky wallpapers, graphic pillows, and textiles embellished with embroidery. CONTRIBUTED

Another advantage to decorating with patterned pieces is that they can live in different rooms over time, says Flores.

"I think we are all more aware of not being such a disposable society. So I love the fact that you can use a blue patterned rug in a new room, and then move it to another space when you tire of it. All you need to do is bring in some other blue accessories for it to work. And it means you get a lot more longevity out of something you have invested in."

"Sometimes you fall in love with a pattern and want to put it everywhere, but it can be overwhelming if you don't change the scale and the tone."
Design blogger, Jennifer Flores

For those who are still pattern shy, Flores suggests that textured objects and textiles can perform a similar visual function.

"Texture can definitely play that role, especially textures that have that touchability," said Flores. "Think about velvet pillows and chunky throws. What makes a space memorable is when you engage as many senses as possible." VICKY SANDERSON

PAINT TRENDS

Moving toward whites and brights

Just as they ruled the runway last year, pale, blush tones are dominating home decor this spring. That's because they're both pretty and practical, says Sharon Grech, colour and design spokesperson for Benjamin Moore, which chose white as its colour of the year.

"It seemed like the right time," said Grech. "We've been lightening up over the past few years, with more and more pastels. You can't get more light than white!"

The move toward lighter colours and whites is partly a response to over-programmed lives, she suggests.

Pretty and practical: pale, blush tones are dominating spring decor. CONTRIBUTED

"There is no shortage of talk about simplifying our lives, and de-cluttering mentally as well as physically," said Grech. "There's nothing like white to give the idea of a blank slate, of starting over."

Not all whites are created equal, nor are they interchangeable, says Grech. The right white will depend on the direction the room faces, and what textiles, furniture and flooring it will have. VICKY SANDERSON

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SMALL, OUTDOOR SPACE? CONSIDER A RAISED BED

Urban gardeners maximize opportunity to grow edibles in compact areas

CONTRIBUTED

Not everyone has a traditional yard with ample space for perennial gardens and a vegetable patch. Despite this, clever green thumbs are maximizing the space they do have to grow a variety of edible crops.

From small urban postage-stamp-sized lots to balconies or rooftops, raised beds provide the perfect growing space for both edibles and ornamentals. And you don't need carpentry skills to build one yourself. There are plenty of options to either buy or upcycle from items you may already have. Just a few square feet can produce fresh produce you can enjoy throughout the growing season.

Here are a few tips that will give you a head start on your garden.

Consider your space's growing conditions

Most vegetables, especially the heat seekers — tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, etc. — require at least six to eight hours of sunlight a day to bear flowers and then fruit. Take a few days to assess where the sun moves in your space throughout the day to make sure you get enough light. If your space is windy, consider using a shield to protect your plants.

One great thing about raised beds is they can be placed anywhere, making them ideal for a small, urban yard, where the soil may be poor quality. Patio stones and decks are also great space candidates. If all the sunlight happens to shine on your driveway, for example, consider a long, narrow raised bed that runs alongside or some other type of raised bed structure that will still fit when the car is parked.

Grow up, up up!

Vertical gardening isn't a new buzzword, but it's one that continues to gain traction as green thumbs get creative with their growing structures. To grow vining veggies, install a small trellis system to train plants to grow upwards towards the sky. This also leaves more space in the actual garden to grow other things. You can also buy or build tiered structures with "drawers" you can fill with soil and plant greens, like lettuce or herbs, which thrive in a shallower space.

Upcycle a raised bed

Antique markets, your parents' backyard, these are both places where you may find items you can upcycle into a garden. Old wooden washtubs, wine barrels, wooden suitcases, you name it. Stock tanks are another modern-looking option that you can buy new or used. And an old table can easily be transformed into a mini salad garden.

Consider gardening in fabric pots

Fabric pots come in all shapes and sizes and because they're so lightweight, they are perfect for balconies and rooftops. (Note: If you are gardening on a balcony or roof, be sure to look into weight restrictions before introducing a raised bed to the space.)

Many fabric raised beds are deep enough to plant root vegetables. The best part is you can empty them out and fold them up (be sure they're dry first) for the winter months, pulling them out again next spring. This also makes it easier to bring your "raised bed" with you when you move. Les Urbainculteurs and Woolly Pocket have online shops that sell fabric raised beds.

Tara Nolan

ISTOCK

Upgrade your condo with quality flooring

If you're looking to increase the value of your condo, upgrading your flooring is one of the best choices you can make.

Repairing existing high-quality flooring or replacing your current flooring with a better quality material can significantly raise the value of your condo investment, according to Sandy Sangster, owner of Calgary Flooring Designs, a provider and installer of high-quality flooring options.

Calgary Flooring Designs' gallery features one of the largest selections of quality flooring in Calgary, including hardwood, engineered hardwood, carpet, laminate, and tiles.

"Our experienced staff will help you choose what kind of flooring will work best for your home and budget," says Sangster. "We have a large selection of Canadian-milled solid and engineered hardwood styles to suit many different tastes and condo requirments."

But upgrading your condo doesn't end with choosing a high-quality product. Once you've selected the material to upgrade with, it's important to get the right skilled tradesperson to install it.

Calgary Flooring Designs only hires specialized flooring installers who have many years of experience.

"You want to choose an experienced hardwood installer who will do a great job with the high-quality material you've chosen," Sangster explains. "They'll advise during the installation process to make sure the materials you've chosen become a beautiful, professionally installed floor for your condo."

Luxurious Carpet

This premium 65 oz. frieze carpet will enhance the beauty of your home. Available in 24 colours with an odour neutralizer.

65oz.

$2.99/sq.ft REG. $3.89

Inspirational Laminate Collection

Best 4 ½ inch plank design is accentuated by its four-sided micro bevel and low-gloss finish. The collection consists of nine colors.

4 1/2 Plank (10mm) 9 Colors

$2.75/sq.ft

Adore Luxury Vinyl

This Luxury vinyl plank with its natural embossed finish is waterproof 2mm & won't absorb moisture or swell! Looks good in kitchens, basements & bathrooms. You can also install it yourself!

LVT4/ LVP5

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Tailored Designer Carpet

This Essential Style ANSONYLON carpet available in 20 colours, with lifetime stain, pet and soil resistance warranty. With absolute performance & great value.

$2.64/sq.ft REG. $3.89

A reputation you can stand on

"The beauty of quality hardwood flooring lasts for decades," says Paul Rivington, Director of Sales of Alberta Hardwood Flooring, a home-grown Alberta company that, like its namesake, has endured the test of time.

This year, the company celebrates its 30th anniversary in Edmonton and its 20th anniversary in Calgary.

"It's amazing to think how many people we've served in our communities, both in Edmonton and Calgary," says Rivington. "It is a great pleasure to have served so many great people and have installed our products in so many Alberta homes."

What enabled them to grow their reputation so well? Two simple principles: quality of products and excellent customer service.

Customers keep coming back to Alberta Hardwood Flooring whenever they need an uncompromisingly excellent product and professional service.

"When Alberta Hardwood Flooring started up 30 years ago, we formed a strategic partnership with a high-quality hardwood flooring manufacturer, Mirage Hardwood Floors. This partnership enabled us to deliver the best-quality product to our customers" says Rivington.

CONTRIBUTED

Whatever your style, Alberta Hardwood has flooring to match what you're looking for. Looking to create the feel of a sleek downtown apartment? Try one of our hardwoods in dramatic high-gloss grey or black. Or if the distressed farmhouse look is more your style, a low-gloss, wide-plank Douglas fir floor might be more to your taste.

The brand's new showroom carries numerous options to choose from in natural and engineered hardwood, cork, high-quality laminate, vinyl, carpet and tile.

When it comes to the service Alberta Hardwood Flooring provides to its customers, "we deliver what we say we're going to deliver," says Rivington.

To learn more, visit albertahardwood.com.

HOMES THAT USE NATURAL LIGHT INTELLIGENTLY

Natural light is one of the most important factors of a home. The more natural light available, the happier the residents.

Mission 34, a new boutique collection of condos by Assured Communities and Calgary Urban Equities, was designed to make the most of the Calgary sunshine.

The 50-unit project, completing construction this June in the Parkhill neighbourhood, has floorplans specially designed to bring more light into the main living area.

"Up until recently it was a building code requirement for condo bedrooms to have exterior windows," explains Jonathan Allen, president of Calgary Urban Equities. "Mission 34 breaks free of that design restriction with floorplans that better reflect how we live."

The remaining floorplans at Mission 34 range from 753 to over 1,000 square feet, and move the main living areas — the kitchen and living room — away from their traditional places toward the exterior windows of the home. This, together with the open concept plans and oversized windows, maximizes natural light.

The bedrooms, meanwhile, feature translucent glass "interior windows" that allow in light to pass from the rest of the home, while also maintaining privacy.

CONTRIBUTED

"Every aspect of these homes is intended to provide residents a better quality of life," says Allen. "They're thoughtfully designed, better appointed and offer superior long-term value."

For more information, please visit mission34.ca or visit the show suite on Saturdays or Sundays between 12 and 5 p.m.

Kensington has ideal neighbourhood feel

Deep community roots balance city amenities

A great home is defined by not just by the quality of its countertops and kitchen appliances — the quality of the neighbourhood is equally important.

Kensington, a boutique collection of homes located in Calgary's walkable Kensington neighbourhood, is the ideal balance of city amenities and community feel.

"The pace in Kensington Village is perfect," explains Mike Bucci, vice president of Bucci Developments, the builder of Kensington. "There's always something to do and see, and all the features of a great neighbourhood are at your fingertips."

Located at 10th Street NW and 2nd Ave at the site of the old Carpenters Hall building, Kensington residents will be walking distance to the best of the neighbourhood. There's no shortage of tempting food and beautiful spaces to enjoy nearby, and Kensington's cafés, restaurants and shops are brimming with personality.

Local cafes are the place to be if you're looking to grab a snack and hang out with your laptop, or treat a friend to coffee. Indulge your sweet tooth with a peanut butter marshmallow square at Crave Cookies and Cupcakes, or clean your palate and give your brain a jolt with an espresso at The Roasterie.

For Kensington residents looking to dine on something more substantial, the neighbourhood is home to an array of restaurants that offer a diverse menu of options. Find authentic Neapolitan pizza at Pulcinella, fresh sushi at Tenshi Sushi, and gourmet burgers at Flipp'n Burgers, among many others.

Kensington residents will find the necessities at their fingertips too, with street-level shops and services built right into the building, and Sunnyside Market, Safeway, banks and other shops and services just a short walk away.

The C-train is also located less than a block away, giving residents quick and direct access to downtown, SAIT, ACAD, the U of C and Foothills Hospital.

CONTRIBUTED

"There's a reason Kensington is one of Calgary's most beloved neighbourhoods," says Bucci. "Its deep roots and diverse people and businesses really give the neighbourhood a community feel."

For more information, visit bucci.com/Kensington

HOMES DESIGNED FOR REAL LIFE

Fantasy and reality can be surprisingly similar if you're looking for a home in Calgary.

Kensington, a new collection of 77 concrete homes located in Calgary's Kensington Village, is a prime example.

Imagine opening your door and entering a beautifully appointed apartment with fine modern finishes in a convenient, carefully planned space that's designed with smart living in mind.

"We're aware that our buyers are looking for homes that will adapt with them," says Mike Bucci, vice president of Bucci Developments, the builder of Kensington. "Homes at Kensington are designed to provide a beautiful, convenient living space that residents can customize to suit their lifestyles."

Created by award-winning Bucci Development, the six-storey development is made up of 77 one- and two-bedroom condos. Its remaining homes are now selling at a starting price of $389,900.

The open-concept floor plans are enhanced by airy, nine-foot ceilings — creating a space that gives you room to breathe and relax.

In the kitchen, cooking is a pleasure with the energy-efficient, stainless steel appliances by Bosch and Fisher & Paykel. Plenty of storage space is included in the specialty high-gloss cabinetry and innovative under-counter storage by Magic Corner, so that all your kitchen accoutrements are well-organized and hidden away, and your quartz countertops can remain clear and uncluttered.

CONTRIBUTED

Residents will revel in the luxurious details of the bathrooms, including designer quartz countertops and backsplashes, large vanity mirrors with custom cabinetry and chrome accessories.

The Kohler Moxie wireless showerhead speaker and Grohe fixtures add equal parts beauty and functionality to the space.

Enjoy the summer months on your own outdoor patio space, which includes a gas barbecue hook-up. Once you're relaxing on your patio with a cool drink and a meal fresh off the barbecue, you'll find the views of downtown Calgary to the South, McHugh Bluff to the East and the surrounding neighbourhood second to none.

Move in this fall. Visit the presentation centre and show home, open every day except Friday from noon until 6 p.m., at 306 10 Street NW. For more information, go to bucci.com/kensington/contact-us/.

CONTRIBUTED

Plugged in at home

For modern home buyers, an ideal home is no longer just about design or finishes. It must also serve modern technological needs.

Homes at Kensington provide solutions for today's changing world.

"Homes today shouldn't be designed the same way they were in the 1950s," says Mike Bucci, vice president of Bucci Developments. "They need to evolve with people just as much as, if not more than a contemporary car or workplace, providing up-to-date amenities for the technology you use every day."

Every night you need a place to plug in your phone. At Kensington, rather than plugging into a traditional electrical plug, you can use the USB outlets located throughout the home.

The digitally controlled air conditioning allows you to adjust climates within the home to suit your needs.

And the homes come pre-wired with fibre optic cable, so connecting to your essential TV and internet services is fast and simple.

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metro SPORTS

"The last word we heard is he's retired": Tony McGregor to Ireland's Independent newspaper on his son Conor's supposed retirement from UFC

Alex Ovechkin is knocked off the puck by Radko Gudas and Chris VandeVelde on Wednesday night. MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neuvirth gives Flyers a new hope

NHL PLAYOFFS

Goalie clutch with season on line in Philly

GAME 4 In Philadelphia

2 1

Michal Neuvirth stopped 31 shots in his first start of the playoffs, helping the Philadelphia Flyers stave off a sweep with a 2-1 win over the Washington Capitals on Wednesday night.

The Capitals still lead the series 3-1 headed into Game 5 Friday night in Washington.

Shayne Gostisbehere and Andrew MacDonald each scored for the Flyers.

Neuvirth was sensational in the third after T.J. Oshie scored early in the period to make it 2-1.

The Capitals still have never swept a best-of-seven playoff series.

The game was marred by a scary hit that saw Flyers centre Scott Laughton leave on a stretcher.

Flyers rookie coach Dave Hakstol shuffled the lineup for the win-or-else game. He benched No. 1 goalie Steve Mason for Neuvirth and moved Brayden Schenn to the top line and demoted Jake Voracek.

Mason allowed five power-play goals, including four in a third period, in a 6-1 Game 3 loss.

Exit Mason, enter Neuvirth.

Neuvirth, who played parts of six seasons in Washington, went 18-8-4 with a 2.27 goal against and a .924 save percentage in 32 games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL PLAYOFFS

Anti-gay slur nets Shaw suspension

The NHL suspended Blackhawks forward Andrew Shaw for one game Wednesday for yelling an anti-gay slur from the penalty box and fined him $5,000 for an inappropriate gesture toward the officials during Chicago's Game 4 loss at home to the St. Louis Blues.

Shaw will miss Game 5 in St. Louis on Thursday, and he will be required to undergo sensitivity training, according to the NHL announcement that came only hours after he quietly apologized for his outburst the previous night.

Shaw was sent off for interference at 17:56 of the third period, hurting Chicago's chance for a comeback in what ended up being a 4-3 loss that put the Stanley Cup champions on the brink of elimination from the playoffs. While sitting in the box, Shaw pounded on the glass with his stick and then yelled at someone on the ice.

It was video of the incident that went viral on social media, prompting sharp criticism and an NHL investigation.

Shaw scored a goal and had two assists in the loss.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andrew Shaw GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

ESPN fires Schilling over transgender postings

ESPN announced that it has fired network analyst and former Boston Red Sox star pitcher Curt Schilling following his comments on Facebook about transgender people.

The network released a statement Wednesday saying, "ESPN is an inclusive company. Curt Schilling has been advised that his conduct was unacceptable and his employment with ESPN has been terminated."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syracuse legend dies at 52

Dwayne (Pearl) Washington, who went from New York City playground wonder to Big East star for Jim Boeheim at Syracuse, has died. He was 52.

Washington died Wednesday of cancer, the university said.

With his amazing ball-handling skills and an uncanny court sense, Washington was instrumental in helping create the aura of greatness the Big East Conference had during its heyday in the 1980s and 1990s.

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Cavs hot from downtown

The Cavaliers' LeBron James drives past the Pistons' Stanley Johnson on Wednesday. TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA PLAYOFFS

LeBron and co. tie post-season record for threes in game

LeBron James scored 27 points, J.R. Smith made seven of Cleveland's NBA playoff record-tying 20 three-pointers, and the Cavaliers opened a 2-0 lead in their series with a 107-90 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Wednesday night.

The top-seeded Cavs put away the up-and-coming Pistons in the third quarter, outscoring them 27-15 to protect homecourt advantage.

GAME 2 In Cleveland

Cleveland Cavaliers	Detroit Pistons
107	90

There was nothing easy about their first two wins and the Cavs, favoured to win the Eastern Conference and return to the finals, will have their work cut out when the best-of-seven series resumes on Friday night at Detroit.

Kyrie Irving added 22 points for Cleveland, which went 20 of 38 on threes and tied the post-season record shared by Golden State (2015), Dallas (2011) and Seattle (1996).

Andre Drummond scored 20 and Reggie Jackson 14 for the Pistons, who have lost 10 straight playoff games against Cleveland. Drummond was just 4-for-16 from the line.

Also on Wednesday, Dwyane Wade had 28 points and eight assists as the Miami Heat beat the Charlotte Hornets 115-103 to take a 2-0 lead in their first-round series.

Hassan Whiteside added 17 points for Miami while making all eight of his shots.

Game 3 is Saturday in Charlotte. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caleb Joseph scores the winning run past Joe Biagini on Wednesday. PATRICK SEMANSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Orioles down Jays in an extra inning

Caleb Joseph doubled with two outs in the 10th inning and scored on a passed ball to give the Baltimore Orioles a 4-3 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Wednesday night.

The Orioles scored three runs in the first inning, then waited until the 10th to strike again. After Joseph reached against rookie Joe Biagini, Joey Rickard got an infield hit and Manny Machado walked.

With Adam Jones at the plate, a pitch from Biagini got past catch Josh Thole and Joseph sprinted home.

In Baltimore

Orioles	Blue Jays
4	3

Josh Donaldson hit his sixth home run and Edwin Encarnacion had two RBIs for the Blue Jays, whose three-game winning streak ended. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canada a perfect 5-0 at mixed curling worlds

Canada's Marliese Kasner and Dustin Kalthoff remain perfect through round-robin play at the world mixed doubles curling championship.

They downed China's Rui Wang and Dexin Ba 12-2 on Wednesday to improve to 5-0. The Canadian pair collected five points in the fourth end then added three more in the sixth end to take the game.

Canada leads Group D while China (4-1) is second. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man United creeping up on City and Arsenal

Manchester United's pursuit of Champions League qualification gathered pace on Wednesday with a 2-0 victory over Crystal Palace that put the team in a strong position to exploit any slip-ups by Arsenal or Manchester City.

With four games remaining, United is only two points behind third-place City and one behind Arsenal, which plays West Bromwich Albion on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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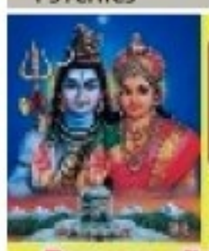

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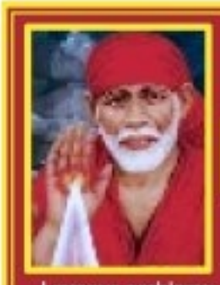

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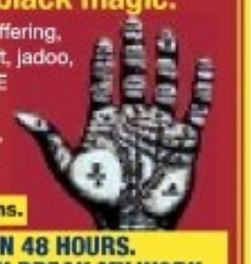

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6	7	8	1	4	9	2	3	5
5	1	9	8	3	2	7	6	4
1	8	4	3	2	5	9	7	6
7	3	5	9	6	1	4	2	8
9	6	2	7	8	4	5	1	3

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RECIPE Tuna White Bean Salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

We're the last people to jump on diet fads. Seriously. But if a person wanted to a low-carb dinner, this would be an excellent way to go.

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes

Ingredients
- 1 x 5 oz can of tuna
- 1 x 15 oz can of cannellini beans
- 1/4 cup red onion, diced fine
- 4 or 5 radishes, thinly sliced
- 8 or so cherry tomatoes, cut in half
- 1 bunch of arugula, washed, dried and trimmed
- 2 handfuls of fresh basil, washed, dried and trimmed
- 3 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. In a large-ish bowl, mix together the tuna, beans and onions.

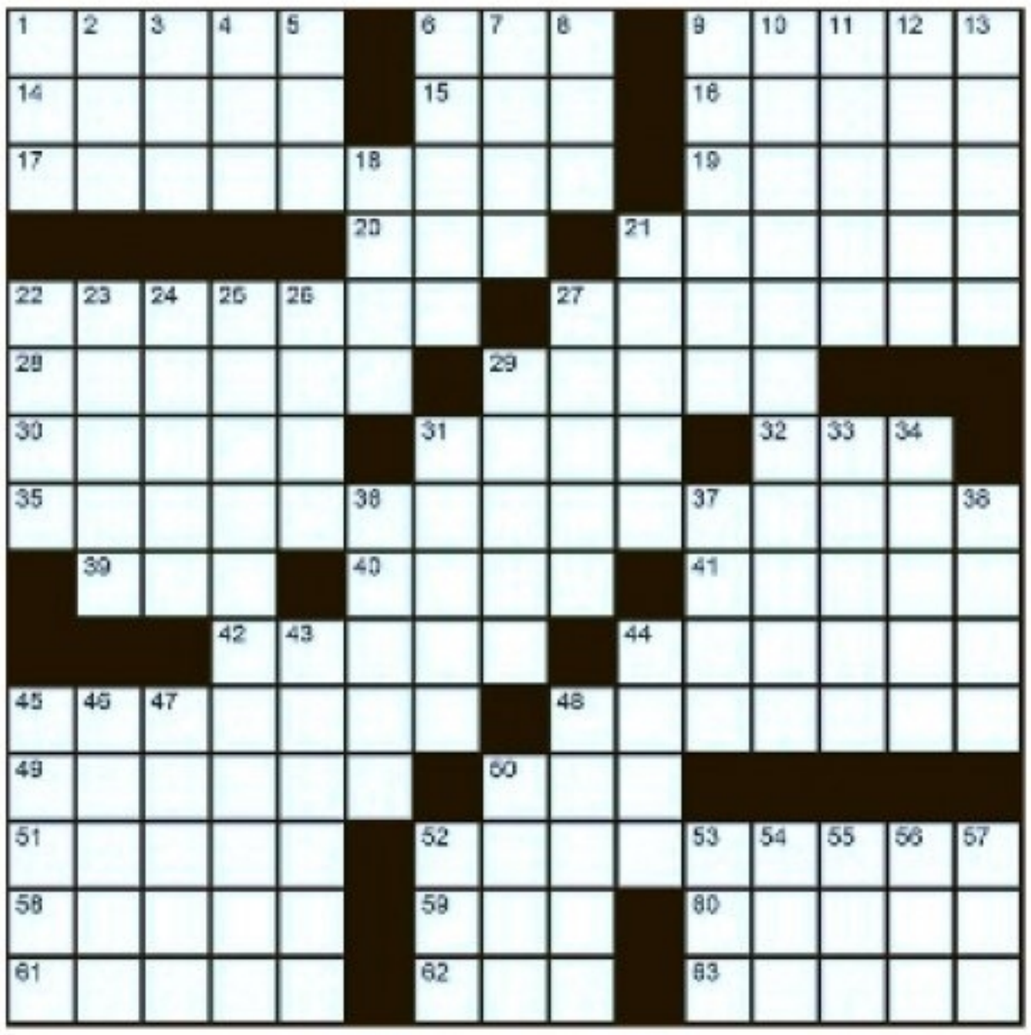
2. In a small bowl, whisk together the lemon juice and olive oil, pour it over your tuna and give a good mix. You don't want to lose all the texture of the tuna, so don't over do it. Taste it and see if you'd like some salt and pepper. Cover with cling film and chill for up to an hour. You can skip this step but it will enhance the flavour.

3. Now it's just an assembly job. You've got four plates. Lay out a handful of greens on each plate, a scoop of tuna deliciousness and then scatter tomatoes and radishes on top.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Curve
6. Crunched muscles, commonly
9. Alan and his actor father Robert
14. Upper Fort __ (Historical site in Manitoba)
15. Edgar Allan Who?
16. "Montreal" singer Mr. Maida
17. Journey all over
19. Guitarist's prop
20. Soaked
21. Most certain
22. White wine of France
27. So Green! So Vast! Canada has many, many, many of these
28. Stay
29. Element with the symbol B in chemistry
30. Run __ (Go wildly)
31. __ vera
32. Bien __, Vietnam
35. The Toronto Raptors play on one: 2 wds.
39. Clear
40. Liturgical vestments
41. Tweak
42. Hall & __
44. Actress Ms. Dahl
45. Wall __ (House walls decorator)
48. Song by Vancouver band 54-40: 2 wds.
49. Puffy dessert
50. Type or sort [abbr.]
51. Dermatologists treat them
52. Restaurant garnish as on a glass of Diet Pepsi: 2 wds.
58. Banal
59. __ and flow
60. Benefit
61. Vows
62. Second Cup serving
63. "__ Go 'Round the Roses": 1963 hit for The Jaynetts

DOWN
1. Mork from Ork's spacecraft, __-shaped
2. 'Bad'-meaning prefix
3. Jake to Maggie, for short
4. Globe
5. X's spelled-out follower
6. __-ski
7. Car trunk, in Britain
8. Adjust
9. Legendary conductor Mr. Toscanini (b.1867 - d.1957)
10. Actress who plays Dr. Betty Rogers on CTV crime drama "Motive": 2 wds.
11. Feeds
12. Build __ (Construct, bird-style)
13. Works by the Rockefeller Center muralist
18. Double
21. __-Tracy, Quebec
22. Grouch
23. Macho fellow
24. Create cheeriness
25. Where Canadian astronaut Chris Hatfield was headed in the Spring of 2013 upon completing his International Space Station mission: 3 wds.
26. Admire
27. Tricks
29. Spills the beans
31. More capable
33. Exterior
34. Domain
36. Spud
37. Bread, e.g.
38. Train, in Spain
43. Comes about
44. River to the Rhine [var. sp.]
45. Topping on pasta
46. Capital of Ghana
47. SVP = S'il vous __
48. "La __" by Ritchie Valens
50. Feeling
52. Rent
53. Existed
54. Ms. Longoria
55. NBA's Mavericks, on scoreboards
56. Canadian actor Mr. Bellows
57. Cathedral city

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today's Full Moon very likely will bring financial issues to a head. Now you will have to decide whether it's time to hold or time to fold.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Today the only Full Moon opposite your sign all year is taking place. That's why you might feel increased tension with partners and close friends. Patience is your best ally today.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
The Full Moon today might create tension with co-workers. Look beyond today's tension, and demonstrate grace under pressure.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Of course, you feel the tension of today's Full Moon because the Moon is your ruler. Just go with the flow. This heightened emotional quality will be gone in 48 hours.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today you feel the classic tug-of-war between trying to keep home and family happy versus trying to keep your job and career happy. You can't do both. (This time, you can't ignore your job.)

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Be careful, because this is an accident-prone day due to the heightened Full Moon energy. Pay attention to everything you say and do.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Financial matters might come to a head because of the Full Moon today. Fortunately, after the Full Moon peaks, things will resolve themselves.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today the only Full Moon in your sign all year is taking place. Do what you can to stay mellow. Be patient with close friends and partners.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You have lots of energy with fiery Mars in your sign! Be careful, because today's Full Moon can create problems with others. Keep smiling, and be patient.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Issues with a group or perhaps with a personal friend might come to a head today. After the Full Moon peaks, you likely will bring things to a happy agreement.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Even though there are external demands on you today, you cannot ignore the demands of home. This feeling of being caught in a tug-of-war is due to the Full Moon today.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Do what you can to avoid accidents today, because the Full Moon energy is distracting. Stay focused and mindful of everything you say and do.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		1	6					
		2		8				
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					7	2		

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